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No. 207

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 8, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUIS J. CORREA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### SUPPORTING THE NDAA

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in a few hours, the House of Representatives will be voting on the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021.

This bill is our Nation's annual defense policy law that the U.S. Congress has approved every year for the last 59 years. It establishes the legal basis for thousands of operations of the Department of Defense, including military

pay, the startup of new technologies, and investment in planes, ships, logistics, and infrastructure at military installations at home and abroad.

This year's bill, like the 59 bills that preceded it, represents 11 months of bipartisan work at the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, whose members and professional staff have worked with the entire Congress to produce a bill that will strengthen our security, support our servicemembers, and boost our economy in countless ways.

As House chair of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, a body I have served on for 14 years, I want to spend a moment on our section of the bill which I believe is remarkable.

The Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee is vested with jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps as set forth in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Those services today are engaged in the highest operational tempo in our military.

In every part of the globe, the Indo-Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Middle East, our sailors and marines are in heel-to-toe operations that are straining our fleet and manpower. Our chief competitors, China and Russia, in these regions have been steadily growing their naval forces in both numbers and quality.

China's navy grew to 355 ships and submarines this year, versus 292 in our fleet. Russia's Navy continues to grow under Putin, particularly with the new, lethal Severodvinsk-class submarines.

With this backdrop, it was quite surprising when, last February, the Trump administration submitted a budget with the lowest number of requested Navy ships since 2009. As the Congressional Research Service noted, the Trump budget asked for just seven new ships and, incredibly, cut one of the two planned Virginia-class submarines, a program that has successfully sus-

tained a two-per-year build rate that began in 2007 under the Obama administration.

This baffling cut ignored all the warnings from commanders who testified at Seapower that our declining, aging fleet of 1980s-era submarines risk losing the one clear tactical advantage that we as a nation retain—namely, our superiority in the undersea domain.

This chart shows the steep decline in the sub fleet in the 2020s, even with a 2-per-year build rate, and the red dotted line shows that the Trump plan worsens that slide.

This cut would also disrupt the skilled workforce that has been assembled over the last decade to execute this highly complex production. At committee, administration witnesses, such as Secretary Esper, gave completely unsatisfactory explanations for this cut, leaving us in Congress with the job to clean up their mess.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that today's bill, in fact, does reverse this cut. Working with Ranking Member ROB WITTMAN, Seapower led the way in restoring the second submarine with offsets and savings as required by the spending cap in the 2019 bipartisan budget law.

We worked with our colleagues on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure that this \$2.6 billion change will be funded in their bill. And I want to thank retiring Chair PETE VISCLOSKY for his strong support of this effort, as well as HASC Chair ADAM SMITH and Ranking Member MAC THORBERRY.

Having the two House defense committees united on this measure ensured that our position would prevail in conference negotiations since the Senate did not initially vote for full restoration.

Ironically, late last month, with Congress deep in the process of negotiating this agreement, the Trump administration suddenly disavowed its own budget

□ 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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and sent a letter to Congress asking us to fully fund the second submarine it wanted to cut just last February. Thankfully, the House had already acted responsibly to do just that earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, who foot-stomped the second submarine as the Navy's top unfunded priority this year and also wrote a powerful support letter to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD that support letter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,  
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. JOE COURTNEY,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to follow up on our phone call of November 12, 2020. As I detailed in the Navy's February 19, 2020 Unfunded Priorities List, the second Virginia Class Submarine in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 remains my top unfunded priority. The FY 2021 shipbuilding budget reflected a balance between requirements, capability, affordability, and the need to sustain the industrial base while maintaining a reasonable degree of risk.

Increased funding to enable the Navy to procure a second Virginia Class Submarine in FY 2021, the 10th under the current contract of the Block V submarine build is critical for a number of important reasons: it supports stability within the industrial base and the workload ramp up for COLUMBIA Class construction and helps mitigate the SSN trough in the late 2020s. Additionally, recent DoD studies highlighted the need to increase the number of submarines to counter the threat.

The Navy supports the President's FY 2021 budget request and will consider the potential for restoring the submarine in future budget submissions, ensuring the proper balance of resources between investing in tomorrow's fleet and sustaining today's fleet. However, if Congress has the opportunity to add one ship to the FY 2021 budget, my recommendation would be an attack submarine. Thank you for your continued support for the United States Navy and its submarine force. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

M.M. GILDAY,  
Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Navy League and the AFL-CIO metal trades unions, whose members do such amazing work at our Nation's shipyards, also provided critical advocacy throughout this fight.

Seapower's professional staff Phil MacNaughton, Dave Sienicki, Kelly Goggin, and Navy fellow Lieutenant Commander Cam Massey rose to the challenge and did the hard work to make this plus-up fit within the overall bill.

In my 14 years on Seapower, this act of bipartisan congressional independence and leadership to pass a shipbuilding plan that faithfully addresses our Navy's needs stands out as its finest hour.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the NDAA today.

#### EN MASSE VOTING BY MAIL IS ILLEGAL

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my fifth speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the Presidential election.

For emphasis, Congress is the judge, jury, and final arbiter of the 2020 Presidential election contest. Further, America's election system is plagued by systemic flaws that promote voter fraud and election theft.

Joe Biden exploited one such flaw when he brazenly promised more than 10 million illegal aliens that he will give them amnesty and citizenship if they help elect Joe Biden President.

The Constitution's Election Clause, Article I, Section 4, is very clear. Congress has absolute authority over the "times, places, and manner of holding elections" for Federal offices.

Pursuant to the Election Clause, and title 2, United States Code, section 7, Congress set November 3 as the 2020 "day for the election."

For emphasis, Congress set a "day for the election" on which citizens vote. Congress did not set an election week, an election month, or an election season during which citizens can cast votes. Also, pursuant to the Election Clause, Congress created limited exceptions to its "vote within a 24-hour window" mandate, to wit:

Alternative voting means for persons with disabilities;

Overseas persons may vote by absentee ballot;

Persons to be absent from their voting location or State on election day may vote by absentee ballot.

Any voting schemes that allow voting outside of congressionally mandated times and means are illegal under the Constitution and Federal statute.

Congress' reasons for limiting voting to one 24-hour period are described by the 2005 bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by Democrat President Jimmy Carter and former Republican White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State James Baker. They strongly cautioned against overly broad absentee ballot and vote-by-mail schemes because they "increase the risk of fraud."

The bipartisan commission found that absentee voting has been one of the major sources of fraud in American elections and that vote by mail "is vulnerable to abuse in several ways: Blank ballots mailed to the wrong address or to large residential buildings might get intercepted. Citizens who vote at home, at nursing homes, at the workplace, or in church are more susceptible to pressure, overt and subtle, or to intimidation. Vote-buying schemes are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail."

Mr. Speaker, Congress passed laws to prevent voter fraud and election theft by establishing, with minor exceptions,

a 24-hour window in which to vote. In contrast, socialist Democrats use bureaucratic allies or engaged in rigged lawsuits involving conspiratorial parties and inattentive judges to obtain sham settlement agreements that blatantly violate the Constitution and Federal law to promote voter fraud and election theft with the singular goal of stealing the United States Presidency.

In particular, all en masse vote-by-mail schemes promote voter fraud and election theft and are illegal because they violate Congress' election procedures and 24-hour voting mandate.

As such, all votes cast pursuant to these vote-by-mail schemes are illegal, void, and should not be counted.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is overwhelming, compelling, and irrefutable. If only lawful votes cast by eligible American citizens are counted, President Trump won the electoral college and a second term as President. Congress can either support illegal voting, voter fraud, and election theft or not.

Because I believe in the rule of law and our Republic, it is my duty as a Member of Congress to, on January 6, object to and vote to reject the electoral college submissions of all States whose election systems are so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I intend to do.

#### RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRIAN JOHNSON, FOUNDER OF WARRIORNOW

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Brian Johnson of Aurora, Colorado, founder of the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW. Brian is an Army veteran who served in Iraq and personally grappled with suicide after leaving the service.

He founded the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW, to help veterans get through the same struggles that he faced after coming home. His approach to combating veteran suicide is to connect at-risk veterans with peer mentors. Brian has developed a mentor certification program to ensure that every veteran receives quality mentorship and to ensure that the mentors are supported as well.

In the wake of COVID-19, Brian saw how the pandemic led to worsening PTSD anxiety, depression, and substance abuse throughout the entire veteran community. As a result, he created Daniel's Room, a virtual nightly check-in that began with Daniel, a veteran who Brian was working with who was struggling with substance abuse.

Thus far, WarriorNOW has served over 800 veterans in Daniel's Room.

I would like to thank Brian Johnson and his organization, WarriorNOW, for

their tireless support of Colorado's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKAELA LAKIN

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mikaela Lakin, an Aurora Police Department officer who lost her life in an off-duty motorcycle accident on September 18, 2020.

Mikaela was a dedicated officer with the Aurora Police Department when she died at the age of 24. A proud Coloradan, Mikaela loved all the outdoor activities our State has to offer, including camping, hiking, and snowboarding.

She will be deeply missed by her mother, Stephanie Renken; her brother, Alexander Lakin; her father, Michael Lakin; her grandparents, Connie and Steve Ostroha; and her beloved dog, Quentin.

She impacted the lives of so many with her outgoing and welcoming spirit and positive outlook. Officer Lakin should be remembered for her commitment to those in need and for the unwavering support she provided to her friends, family, and community.

May she rest in peace.

HONORING NATURAL HELPERS

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of the Aurora Natural Helpers program and its steadfast commitment to the community.

Aurora is an increasingly international and diverse city in Colorado's Sixth District. With the creation of the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs and the launching of the second phase of their Immigrant Integration Plan, Aurora is quickly becoming a national leader in the field of immigrant integration.

Launched by the city of Aurora in collaboration with local nonprofits in 2016, the Aurora Natural Helpers program trains leaders from immigrant refugee communities so they can help integrate their community members.

Trained Natural Helpers are equipped to provide information and resources to newly arriving immigrants and refugees on topics including city services and private assistance.

With the support of local partner organizations, more than 150 people from 25 countries have been trained, and crucial immigrant and refugee leadership has been fostered and empowered.

I would like to thank all of those involved in the Aurora Natural Helpers program for their dedication to our community. Their hard work connecting communities in Aurora to crucial resources not only ensures that immigrants and refugees in the Sixth District have the opportunity to thrive but that their leadership also comes from within.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the Tri-County Health Department as a recipient of the National Association of County and City Health Officials 2020 Model Prac-

tice Award. The Tri-County Health Department serves the three counties in my district: Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas.

As we work to address the COVID-19 crisis, this recognition is a reminder of the many ongoing public health initiatives led by our city and county health departments, achievements they make despite challenging and adverse conditions. This award recognizes programs demonstrating excellence in response to a critical local public health need.

As part of this year's public health award series, Tri-County Health Department received one Model Practice Award and two Promising Practice Awards. The Model Practice Award was awarded to Tri-County's project on partnering with local businesses on workplace health and well-being.

I would like to thank the professionals of Tri-County Health Department for their many contributions to public health. Both before and during the pandemic, their programs and services have been instrumental in protecting the public health and well-being of our community.

PENNSYLVANIA'S DRUG CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a public health crisis that is taking a tangible toll on every facet of our society.

In Pennsylvania, drug abuse and addiction are not abstract concerns. The drug crisis is a reality that plays out across our community every single day. Sadly, Pennsylvanians are not alone. Each day, more than 130 Americans die from an overdose.

As a nation, we cannot allow illicit drugs to continue tearing apart families, destroying our workforce, and claiming lives. From law enforcement officials to healthcare providers to educators to community leaders and lawmakers, all of us have an individual part to play. We must combat this crisis, keep drugs off our streets, protect families, safeguard our economy, and, most importantly, save lives.

Ending this scourge requires a team effort. In Congress, it has been my privilege to work with leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels to identify and implement commonsense solutions for the drug crisis.

Mr. Speaker, today I thank my fellow members of the freshman Bipartisan Working Group on Addiction for their collaboration and partnership during the 116th Congress. Together we worked toward our shared fight against drug abuse and addiction. I am proud of the legislative achievements that we forged, and I am looking forward to continuing this work in the upcoming 117th Congress.

In the White House, President Donald Trump and his administration are incredible leaders in this fight. From day

one, President Trump prioritized realistic and achievable solutions to tackle this problem, equip those on the front lines, and support Americans in recovery.

I am grateful to President Trump's drug czar, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director James Carroll, for his steadfast commitment to this issue. This fall, it was an honor to host Director Carroll in my district to meet directly with remarkable leaders on the front lines of the drug crisis. He is a true partner for Pennsylvanians, and I am thankful for Director Carroll's service in this key role.

As a nation, Americans have made significant strides in defeating the drug crisis, and now, today, our work must continue.

On the China Task Force we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only public health crisis that was created by the Chinese Communist Party. All too often illicit drugs originating in China end up on the streets in Pennsylvania, spurring addiction, harming families, and killing too many of my patients, my friends, and my neighbors. These drugs are trafficked through porous borders, and even through the U.S. Postal Service.

As a direct solution to this problem, I have cosponsored legislation to hold the Chinese Communist regime—and any other foreign government—accountable if the government fails to stop deadly drugs from leaving their borders, and I will continue to push forward with commonsense legislation.

Tragically, the drug crisis has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and aggressive mitigation tactics in Pennsylvania and around the country. As we Americans battle this pandemic, we must not ignore rising rates of addiction and overdoses. I continue to call on Federal and State leaders to ensure that individuals and families facing addiction and those in recovery have the resources and support that they need, whether virtual or in person.

We cannot afford inaction. The ramifications of the drug crisis transcend all divides. Together—not as Republicans or Democrats, but together as Americans—we are in a shared fight to save lives, and together we must win.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand here humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve the people of California's 39th District in the 116th Congress.

When I was 18, I wanted to serve my country, so I joined the United States Navy, and that is what I have done for most of my adult life: I have served to help both my country and others.

As a Representative of the 39th District, I am proud of the high level of

engagement, accessibility, and visibility I have had with my constituents. I was able to bring back over \$367 million to the district for our schools, job creation programs, fire departments, resources to combat homelessness, and COVID-19 relief.

Our district office recovered over \$550,000 for constituents through casework and helped 419 constituents resolve their Federal issues, from Social Security to Medicare benefits to immigration casework and Veterans Affairs healthcare. We have responded to over 119,000 constituent letters and participated in over 250 community events. I hosted 30 townhalls over the past 2 years.

At the start of this pandemic, my team swiftly changed their operations to respond to every concern and question that came through, working tirelessly day and night to help the 39th District get through this pandemic. Their commitment and dedication to public service knows no limit. We raised the bar significantly and set the standard of what representation should look like for the 39th District. We delivered, because anything less would have been unacceptable.

From California to Washington, D.C., I listened to constituents, worked across the aisle, and turned problems into legislative action. I voted to protect the Affordable Care Act, preserve protections for preexisting conditions, and lower the price of prescription drug costs.

I also helped secure House passage of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks bill, to bring us closer to ending this gun violence epidemic and keeping our communities safe. For the first time in over 25 years, the CDC received funding to research gun safety, a significant step for our country.

As a Navy veteran and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have worked across party lines to improve access to benefits for our veterans. We got the blue water Navy bill passed and signed into law to help our veterans, like my father, who was exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. Just recently, my bipartisan bill to prevent veteran suicide and substance use problems was signed into law within a larger landmark veterans' mental healthcare bill.

I am proud of the work I was able to do on the Armed Services Committee to protect our servicemembers and their families. I am proud of the work I have done to diversify our officer corps, protect military children from child abuse, and fight sexual harassment and assault in our military.

In the House, we have also passed legislation to protect our Dreamers, lift the SALT cap, support small businesses, and strengthen voting rights, which is what the American people want. But the work must continue to help those things become law.

There is so much more that needs to be done. It has become abundantly clear that partisan gridlock is pre-

venting Congress and the Federal Government from doing its job.

What I am most proud of is when this House came together to get things done for the American people. We came together to pass great bipartisan legislation like the blue water Navy bill. At the beginning of this pandemic, we came together as a House, a Congress, and as a government to pass legislation that was beneficial to the American people and businesses. That type of collaboration is what the American people want to see, and it is what they should expect.

We are still in the middle of this pandemic, and families, workers, and businesses are being left behind, and this legislative body must come together again to prevent that from happening. In the end, we must remember and never forget that we are here to serve the American people.

As I conclude, I just want to take this opportunity to say thank you. No one ever does anything alone, so I want to thank my wife, Jacki, and my boys, Alexander and Christopher, for their love and support.

I want to thank my staff in D.C. and in the district. I can't tell you how many times I was told by so many people how responsive and wonderful they all were to work with.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the people of the 39th District for allowing me to serve as their Representative.

Those who know me know that I am a big baseball fan and a big Dodger fan. One of my favorite baseball players, the legendary Jackie Robinson, once said: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

I do not know what the future holds for me, but I can assure you this, Mr. Speaker: I will continue to work to have a positive impact on others' lives for both my community and my country.

#### POSTMASTER ROBERT BROWN

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of S. 4684, the House version of which will be coming to the floor today to honor former Thermopolis, Wyoming, Postmaster Robert Brown. We will be renaming the U.S. Post Office located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis as the Robert L. Brown Post Office.

Bob Brown's career with the Postal Service spanned 44 years, including 18 years as the postmaster. Brown and his wife, Jerry, who was Senator MIKE ENZI's first Sunday school teacher, are also the parents of Senator JOHN BARRASSO's wife, Bobbi.

After graduating from Thermopolis High School, Brown was inducted into the Army in 1944 and served in both the European and Pacific theaters. In 1950, when he was in the National Guard, Brown deployed to Korea, where he was

a member of the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Along with a unit citation, he received a combat infantry badge and the Purple Heart.

After his service, Bob returned to Thermopolis and began working at the post office. Decades of service to his community, to his State, and to his country mean that it is absolutely fitting that the Thermopolis Post Office should bear Bob's name, and I am proud to sponsor this legislation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING THE BIRTHDAY OF J. T. JOHNSON

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the belated birthday of my uncle, civil rights organizer J. T. Johnson. He served in civil rights. He was one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s lieutenants, hailed from Albany, Georgia, and integrated St. Augustine swimming pool accommodations. In fact, he had acid poured on him in the swimming pool.

So we are thankful for you, Uncle J.T.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the birthday today of my brother, Colby Hall.

#### COVID-19

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the public health pandemic that ravages our Nation.

As COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to rise, I believe that our country is at an inflection point in which our actions and ability to provide relief to struggling Americans will define our commitment to the American people for generations to come.

As the Member of Congress tasked with looking after the seat that the late Representative John Lewis held for over 33 years, I know that he would want me to speak up and speak loudly about the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive stimulus bill in response to this unprecedented pandemic.

Having survived COVID-19 myself after dealing with it for over 3 weeks this summer, I am committed to doing everything I can to ensure that we crush this virus and provide for the American people.

Like John Lewis once said: "Governments and corporations do not live. They have no power, no capacity in and of themselves. They are given life and derive all their authority from their ability to assist, benefit, and transform the lives of the people they touch."

As the struggle mounts for the people in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, it is clear to me that the Congress of the United States must act, and act swiftly. The latest report shows that, by the end of this year, without additional relief from the Federal Government, one in six Americans will go hungry, 20 million renters could face eviction, and small businesses, which are already being disproportionately impacted, will continue to suffer.

I know that the late Representative John Lewis would have taken every opportunity to use his voice and speak up for those who would not have food on their table if not for food banks. I know that he would have taken every opportunity to speak up for those at risk of losing the roof over their head, and I know that he would have taken every opportunity to speak up for the small and minority-owned businesses which cannot survive without help.

Just last week, it was reported that the Atlanta businesses that have managed to remain open are only making it by the slimmest of margins. Many of these struggling small and minority-owned businesses have never, even before the pandemic, had the access to the capital they need.

They need a pivot. The loans from the Paycheck Protection Program would certainly help them, and additional funds for this program must be included in any stimulus plan moving forward.

□ 1030

As the pandemic continues to impact communities in my district and across the country, I cannot help but urge my new colleagues to step up and take meaningful action. We cannot, and must not, leave the American people to deal with this virus alone. It is in the spirit of the Honorable John Lewis, our North Star and guiding light, that I say we must not leave Congress until we ensure that help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, struggling Americans deserve better.

#### CONGRATULATING MYRNA BALLARD

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 congratulate Ms. Myrna Ballard on her retirement from serving as Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce president after 23 years.

Myrna has been a pillar to Valdosta and Lowndes throughout her time serving in the chamber because of her work in economic development, infrastructure building, and supporting pro-business legislation. Thanks to her diligent and consistent efforts, the chamber has continuously received the 5-star accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The accreditation program defines standards of excellence in chamber planning and performance, and shows chambers how they can reach and maintain these standards. It also recognizes folks like Myrna who have helped set high standards for chamber members and staff to contribute to the good of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Myrna the best as she begins her retirement. Congratulations again.

#### HONORING MEG HEAP

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chatham County District Attorney Meg Heap.

Since she was elected DA in 2012, Meg has fought hard to secure justice, prevent crimes, and improve our community. Her lifelong passion for working with victims of crime and senior citizens helped pave her way to law school at Mercer University. A Savannah native, Meg's career and time as DA was marked by her love for Chatham County and its people, which is why she worked so hard to establish the many new programs and innovations to improve the district attorney's office.

Some of the many programs she started include the Youth Intercept for at-risk youth and the Pretrial Diversion for youthful, non-violent first offenders. Meg also helped establish the Chatham County Family Justice Center to assist special victims find the services they need in just one space.

I am thankful for Meg's many years of hard work, as Chatham is truly a better place because of her.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL ZEIGLER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mr. Daniel Zeigler of Savannah, Georgia, who, sadly, passed away on December 4 at the young age of 33.

Daniel was a graduate of the South University School of Pharmacy and worked as a pharmacist at Medicap Pharmacy. One of his greatest joys was taking care of his pharmacy patients, and he did it with unmatched kindness and intentionality.

Daniel loved the Lord and attended services at Compassion Christian Church's Henderson Campus. Like his father, he also had a passion for cars and was an avid member of various organizations. Daniel was the youngest member of the Oglethorpe Driving Club, and cofounded the successful Cars and Coffee, which was a group for car lovers across Savannah.

He dedicated much of his joy and much of his time every December to helping out with the Toys for Tots toy drive, which benefits kids in need.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers, Amy's prayers, and all of the friends at Carter's Pharmacy's prayers go out to all the lives that Daniel touched, including his patients, his family, his parents, Donna and Jay, his brother, Jason, and all of his friends who were blessed to know him.

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE COLLIN C. PETERSON

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our colleague and my good friend, chairman of the Agricultural Committee, COLLIN PETERSON.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman PETERSON has served 30 years as a Member of Congress; so long that there was another Congressman PANETTA serving in this body when COLLIN was elected back in 1990. Fortunately, over that long time came experience and wisdom that Chairman PETERSON was more than

happy to use and share to help other Members of Congress, to serve his constituents in Minnesota's 7th Congressional District, and to further our Nation's agriculture. One thing that I have learned and one thing that Chairman PETERSON will always tell us is that more needs to be done for our agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, now, I first met Chairman PETERSON as a freshman Member on the Agriculture Committee. I will never forget how he gathered the freshmen Democrats, who were all excited not just to be a part of Congress, but having the opportunity to formulate the upcoming farm bill. But in his, let's just say, charming way, COLLIN quickly cooled that enthusiasm when he warned us about the potential for issues on the nutrition title—the largest section of that bill—in which he said it could prevent us from getting a bill.

In fact, in his straightforward way, he actually said, "If they screw with SNAP, we are not getting a farm bill."

I have to say, as the 115th went on, and with the positive hearings we had on SNAP, I was incredulous as to that warning that Chairman PETERSON had. But that ominous warning turned into an accurate prediction, because 2 weeks before the farm bill was dropped, we were notified of the majority's desire to add stringent restrictions on how one acquires SNAP benefits.

Mr. Speaker, but what I experienced after that was something I will never forget. The way Chairman PETERSON not only stood firm in his beliefs about the importance of the benefits to low-income families and that the fraud and error rate in those programs is among the lowest in government, and using the passion of Congressman DAVID SCOTT, Chairman PETERSON got us all to stand together in opposition.

He then worked together with chairman and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee to push together, push forward, put together and pass a bipartisan 2018 farm bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising that Chairman PETERSON was able to do so, because during his time, he worked on five farm bills, a bill that has 12 titles and is complex and nuanced. So to lead the Agriculture Committee, to lead Congress, and to unify our members on something so diverse, it takes leadership, it takes knowledge of the farm policy, but also an understanding and appreciation of how the farm bill protects our food security and the people affected by our foreign policy.

It is also a bill that demonstrates what Chairman PETERSON stands for and what Chairman PETERSON made the Agriculture Committee stand for—a platform to support farmers, ranchers, and families in America. From the row crops and dairy producers in his rural district to the specialty crop and organic farmers and farm workers in my district, to the families in every district who rely on food assistance programs, Chairman PETERSON made

sure that all of us in Congress have a seat at the Agriculture Committee. I believe that is a big part of why the Agriculture Committee stands out for its bipartisanship and its commonsense approach in protecting food security and promoting people in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, see, based on who he is and where he comes from, Chairman PETERSON understands the incredible contributions that rural Americans have on our way of life. We do have the best farmers and farm workers in the world. Rural Americans supply most of our food, our water, and our energy. They are the reason for our food security and our economic diversity. We don't have to pay that much for food. Therefore, we can spend on other things in our lives and create a diverse economy.

Mr. Speaker, rural Americans understand that every American's obligation is to give back to this country and community that has given us so much. Maybe that is why 30 percent of rural America makes up 30 percent of our Armed Forces. But what Chairman PETERSON warns is that, even with all that good work in rural America, they feel underappreciated and they feel overwhelmed.

Chairman PETERSON sees that firsthand with the widening divide between rural America and urban America, a divide that has led to the depletion of jobs, of small businesses, of people, and even communities, which ultimately leads to a growing sense of desperation.

Don't get me wrong, people in agriculture are used to dealing with the challenges. I call them the four Ms. They deal with Mother Nature. They deal with the markets. They deal with the mandates. They deal with the migration and the lack of labor. But they are always pivoting to get over those hurdles. It is that risk-taking attitude that allows them not just to survive, but to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, nowadays, there are other forces in play in rural America, with large corporate firms squeezing out the family-owned farms, with chain stores pricing out mom-and-pop stores, with the lack of rural broadband, and the lack of healthcare options and the shrinking number of rural hospitals.

It is no wonder why in many parts of rural America there is a sense of desperation leading to a ridiculously high rate of suicides and leaving a vacuum that can be filled with a vilification of certain races, certain places, and certain political parties.

Unfortunately, this has led not just to that type of vilification, but also to the lack of faith and how our Congress and government can help them.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do what Chairman PETERSON has always said we should do. It is time for us to do more for those who aren't from rural districts to work on focusing and connecting with rural districts by showing up, by shutting up, by listening up, and for us to put up a strategy that is not just about doling out billions of dollars

to farmers, but actually partnering with them so they have sustainable business and a sustainable way of life.

Mr. Speaker, if we do that, we will uphold what Chairman PETERSON has always asked us to do, and that is to work for the people and agriculture, and we can do that and provide faith to people in rural America and all of America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR DAVID BAKER

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of my friend, Pastor David Baker of Belton, Missouri.

On November 29, Pastor Baker went to be with the Lord—a loss for us, but a gain for Heaven.

This last August marked his 39th year as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Belton, Missouri, and 37 years from his founding of Heartland Christian Schools. Through these two ministries, more than 6,000 people accepted Christ and over 2,000 people were baptized; truly remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor David Baker had a tremendous impact on countless lives and was a leader in the community. He was respected for his knowledge as a Bible scholar, his kind heart, his love for others, and his willingness to share what God's Word says about the issues of the day. He was not afraid to take a stand for what is right and good, which is refreshing in today's world.

Most of all, Pastor David Baker was a wonderful husband and ministry partner to his wife, Claire, and a loving father to his three children—Brian, Brett, and Brooke—and to his nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Baker will be deeply missed, but I know his legacy will live on in the thousands of lives he touched and influenced for eternity. I am thankful for his friendship through the years and I am grateful for the positive impact he made on our community and this Nation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RON DITZFELD

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ron Ditzfeld, a beloved business leader, philanthropist, and a true pillar in the Sedalia community.

Ron Ditzfeld was born and raised in Sedalia, Missouri. His parents, Jon and Bernice, founded Ditzfeld Transfer, Incorporated, in 1960, with two straight trucks. In 1968, Ron Ditzfeld and his brother, Donnie, began working for the family business. In 1996, Ron took over as the President of Ditzfeld Transfer, Inc. Today, Ditzfeld Transfer, Inc., has more than 80 employees and provides trucking services, bus transportation, container services across the United States, trash pickup services, and provides warehouse and distribution services.

Ron also served two years in the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Ron was not only a beacon in the business community, he also was very active in the community serving on the board of several organizations, such as the State Fair Community College Foundation, CHS Cooperative Workshop, and Sedalia Airport.

His civic involvement includes the State Fair Foundation, the Economic Development Sedalia-Pettis County, Daum Museum of Contemporary Art at State Fair Community College, Sacred Heart Foundation, Child Safe of Central Missouri, Sedalia Bomber baseball, JROTC, and local/national disaster relief efforts.

Ron was dedicated to his community and he lent a hand whenever he could. Ron was even known to drive the Smith-Cotton High School JROTC and Team SCREAM robotics team to national competitions through Ditzfeld Transfer, Inc.'s charter services.

Ron will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and community. Please join me in honoring Ron Ditzfeld, whose legacy will continue to impact countless lives for many generations to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF HOPE LECCI

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Hope Lecci, a dedicated reporter at the Sedalia Democrat, who passed away just days from writing the news articles about the passing of community leader, Ron Ditzfeld.

Hope began her career, not as a journalist, but as a teacher of English and history at Smithton School District, where she influenced countless students and future leaders, including our current State representative, Brad Pollitt.

Mr. Speaker, Hope was respected and revered by all who knew her. She was professional, kind, and loving to those around her, dedicated to her family and her faith. I enjoyed getting to know her and interacting with her as a journalist. She was always fair and dedicated to ensuring every quote was accurate and the topic was thoroughly covered. I am sorry she will no longer be covering news in the area, but I know she is rejoicing and receiving her heavenly reward.

Mr. Speaker, may her example inspire all of us to be our best in our professions and in our interactions with others.

#### HONORING MAYOR GEORGE CRETEKOS

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

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life's work of a very honorable civil servant who has given so much to Pinellas County and the City of Clearwater over his long, accomplished, and selfless career.

George Cretekos has devoted his life to public service, over 5 decades of unwavering commitment to his fellow

Floridians, exemplified by deep community involvement, civility, and practical commonsense decision-making. George is a Republican and is my dear friend.

□ 1045

George got his start working for St. Petersburg Congressman Bill Cramer. Upon Mr. Cramer's retirement, he began an extraordinary 35-year run with Representative Cramer's successor, Congressman Bill Young. George served on his Washington, D.C., staff and was best known throughout the county as Congressman Young's longtime district director.

In 2007, he made the jump to elected office himself, joining the Clearwater City Council. George served on the council for 5 years before rising to the mayor's office in 2012. At city hall, Mayor Cretekos governed Clearwater with unfaltering professionalism, shepherding major initiatives such as the \$60-plus million Imagine Clearwater downtown waterfront restoration project. In addition to his mayoral role, he served as the president of the Barrier Islands Government Council and the Pinellas County Mayors' Council.

Throughout his public career, he was first to listen, quick to find compromise, and, foremost, committed to the well-being of his constituents.

I have known George for many, many years. He has always gone out of his way to look out for ways in our community to help out, large and small. He served on the OneBlood Tampa Bay area board, donating over 60 gallons of blood during his lifetime. He continues to be a volunteer courier for the National Bone Marrow Donor Program and remains very involved with the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater, Florida.

He was awarded numerous accolades for his contributions, notably from the Salvation Army as well as the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

George was an elected official, but he was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and quietly do the hard work behind the scenes. He has volunteered to build homes for Habitat for Humanity. He helped with the Clearwater Jazz Festival. He serves dinners for the needy. He has worked 12-plus-hour shifts for days on end as a Pinellas County poll worker.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, once again, in commemorating the career of Mayor George Cretekos—my fellow Greek, by the way—recognizing his outstanding service and dedication to our community.

He has served admirably, with humility. His leadership and character distinguish him as a gold standard for public service. His good works will be remembered for decades to come.

#### AMERICAN INNOVATION IS IN THE EXPRESS LANE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, American innovation is in the express lane, and we have President Trump and both the private and public sectors to thank.

The progress that has been made to date on viable vaccine candidates is astonishing, and it is a promising sign for the American people.

It is truly a testament to the grit and resilience that resides within this country, and we have come a long way since the beginning of this year.

We are on the cusp of eradicating COVID-19 once and for all, and the livelihoods of the American people will be restored.

Mr. Speaker, never bet against American innovation. It has the power to change the world.

#### PERSONAL BATTLE WITH COVID-19

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, my family faced a test that was unlike any we had faced before: fighting COVID-19.

My husband contracted the virus and spent 4 days in Watauga Medical Center, where he received excellent care from doctors and nurses. I tested positive, was totally asymptomatic, but, of course, was quarantined and understand the frustration associated with that. Thankfully, though, I was able to continue my work without interruption, unlike so many others.

We have always been grateful for those in healthcare, treating others at their own risk, but we understand the situation they are facing better than ever.

We are even more grateful for the men and women fighting on the front lines to protect the American people. They do so not out of self-interest but rather through a solemn commitment to protect the sanctity of human life.

We will be forever grateful for their countless sacrifices and will continue to pray for their safety and for God's grace to continue.

To those impeccable men and women serving, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

#### DON'T TREAT BIPARTISANSHIP LIKE A FOUR-LETTER WORD

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is full of opportunity.

How else could a young Black kid from San Antonio, Texas, grow up to come to Congress to represent a majority Latino district and get 17 pieces of legislation signed into law?

My mom always taught me: You are either part of the problem or you are part of the solution. So, I ran for Congress, and over the past 6 years, I have done everything I can to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get things done.

During my tenure, I have had some legislative lows, like being two signa-

tures short of a successful discharge petition which would have led to a DACA fix being put on the President's desk.

We should never stop fighting for these folks who are part of our American family. People like John Lewis taught us that this kind of work may be long, and it may be hard, but it is righteous.

At the same time, I have had some legislative highs:

Being the lead Republican, with my friend JOSÉ SERRANO, to get the National Museum of the American Latino Act unanimously passed out of this House of Representatives—after 26 years, we finally did it.

Modernizing IT procurement laws so that the government provides better digital-facing services and establishing a national strategy to ensure the U.S. stays a leader in artificial intelligence are going to pay off for years.

I came to Congress to make our Nation safer. When I was first elected, ISIS was our biggest national security threat. As we look at the years ahead, the nature of the threat is distinctly different.

The next generation-defining battle, which has already begun, is against the Chinese Communist Party. China is trying to supplant the United States as the sole superpower in this world by 2049.

Every American should care about this struggle because we face a potential future where Mandarin and the yuan, not English and the dollar, dominate the global economy. The winner of this generation-defining struggle will not just affect our economy but will shape the rest of the century for the entire world.

Within this context of great power competition, I urge my colleagues to confront this national security threat with a simple principle that I learned from my time in the CIA: Be nice with nice guys and tough with tough guys.

Back home, I have learned another simple principle: Show up. I was willing to show up to places others weren't, listen to what folks had to say, and work across the aisle to solve problems. We were able to find solutions to some of the most difficult problems plaguing our constituents by empowering people, not the government.

I could not have done any of this without my staff. From day one, my team and I held the belief that no problem was too small and that no goal was too big. This mentality is how we ended up helping a high-schooler who had an idea of preventing her friends from distracted driving, and it is how we spent a year working on a national strategy for artificial intelligence.

Despite these legislative successes, the thing I will remember most is helping constituents whose names folks don't know battle the Federal bureaucracy. Making a difference in the lives of those folks is something I will cherish forever.

To all of my staff over the years, especially Nancy Pack, thank you for

your late hours, thank you for your hard work, thank you for putting up with me, and thank you for your dedication, not just to the folks of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, but to the entire American family.

It has been a distinct privilege to stand on this floor for the past 6 years to debate issues and represent the people of the 23rd Congressional District. Thank you for putting your faith and trust in me.

Serving as a Member of Congress has not only taught me about this incredible institution and how to legislate; it has proven a long-held belief that way more unites us as a country than divides us.

My final message for my colleagues, as I depart this body: Don't treat bipartisanship like a four-letter word. The only way big things have ever been done in this country is by doing them together.

#### HONORING RETIRING SENATOR PAT ROBERTS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this month, after 40 years of service as a Member of Congress, our senior Senator of Kansas will be moving his belongings out of his office in the Hart Senate Office Building to a private library.

To best honor him, I would like to share some of his original wit, some of the quips for which he is most famous. Number one:

Take your job seriously, but not yourself. There are no self-made men or women in public service. It is your family, friends, and staff who have made you what you are.

Another couple of favorites:

You are only as good as your staff.  
It isn't the best possible bill; it is the best bill possible.

In reference to an opponent who sometimes disagrees with you, he suggested:

Go smother them with the milk of human kindness.

On his commitment to agriculture, he said:

We live in a troubled and hungry world.  
Food security is national security.

When asked about why we need agriculture programs, the Senator once said:

You can't eat a shoe.  
On life, when asked about making a mistake, he suggested that:

You go hunker down and take it like a donkey in a hailstorm.

He once said:  
Remember, when you roll around with pigs, you both get dirty, but only one of you enjoys it.

On sports, at football games, he often said:

Throw the ball to the tight end. He was wide open.

And, of course, as we all know, the Senator was the unofficial tight end

coach for the ever-optimistic and fighting Kansas State Wildcats.

At a townhall, when a rabid constituent gave a forceful opposing opinion, he once replied:

I'll mark you down as undecided.

I loved when he referred to Kansas University as that school over by Baker.

The Senator, once a marine, was always a marine. He was often quoted saying "take the hill" and "semper fi."

But my personal favorite:

There are lots of cactuses in the world, but you don't have to go sit on every one.

When I first meet successful, influential people, people who I have read about or know of, I have often asked myself: Is there any substance to this person? Is there character and integrity? What is truly important to them?

I would like to share, as we have gotten to know Senator ROBERTS and his wife, Franki, I have found that their footprints are larger than their shadows, their hearts are bigger than their words, their love of this country, their love of Kansas, more than any words I can find to describe.

Personally, I cannot imagine any memory of Senator ROBERTS without thinking of his bride, his South Carolina magnolia blossom, as he often called her, whom he married some 51 years ago. She is absolutely his rock, the person I always see standing beside him with adoring eyes. While occasionally she gives him a gentle nudge, everyone knows she always has his back.

Laina and I want to personally thank Senator ROBERTS and Franki, who have embraced us with hospitality and kindness since arriving ourselves in Washington, D.C., some 4 years ago. They have shown us what it is to be an ambassador for our State. From Christmas gatherings at the White House to farm bill hearings in a barn, they have shown what servant leadership looks like, representing our State with dignity and grace.

Senator ROBERTS is the only person in American history to have his portrait in both the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing rooms.

Senator ROBERTS has had a hand in writing eight farm bills. He has been on a Federal congressional agriculture committee for 40 years running. Some of his greatest accomplishments include those eight farm bills, and I am going to reference two of them.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, which he was the primary author and chairman, this became known as the Freedom to Farm bill.

Chairman ROBERTS has often told the story—I have heard this maybe once or twice—of sitting on the tongue of the wagon of a farmer in Dodge City, Kansas, with all of his farm experts, and his good friend, Leon Torline said: PAT, we all need freedom to farm.

Sure enough, this agriculture policy gave producers the freedom to plant

crops based on market indicators, not Federal Government set-aside policies.

Next, I will reference the first farm bill I participated in, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, on which he was the primary author as chairman. Probably most notably, this farm bill received more votes than any farm bill in modern history, with 87 in favor.

I would like to also mention the 2016 National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Act. This Federal legislation created standards for labeling food with ingredients derived from biotechnology.

Then his 2000 Agriculture Risk Protection Act reformed national crop insurance and led to its widespread use today.

Finally, I will mention Senator ROBERTS was always the leader in bio-agro security legislation. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, Senator ROBERTS chaired the first Senate hearing on the threat to our Nation's food supply.

I will close with this. Though Senator ROBERTS will always be known for his wit, being an entertaining speaker, and a great interview, his actions and his accomplishments will always speak louder than any of his words.

He and Franki have been tremendous ambassadors for agriculture, for Kansas, and for America. They have climbed many mountains, and they have planted the flag.

Senator ROBERTS, semper fi. May God richly bless you, Franki, and your family.

□ 1100

#### HONORING GENERAL ROBERT HINSON

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to retired Lieutenant General Robert C. Hinson, U.S. Air Force, the founding executive director of the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska, who recently announced his retirement at the end of this year.

General Hinson retires after more than a half century of highly distinguished service supporting the missions of the Department of Defense, commercial industry, and the University of Nebraska.

General Robert Hinson's leadership and dedication to the principles of freedom have been indispensable for America's national security interest. He began his career by enlisting in the United States Air Force. After spending 1 year as an administrative specialist, he received a commission from Officer Training School in 1971.

General Hinson retired after 33 years of exemplary Active-Duty military service. Over the course of his career, he distinguished himself as an outstanding military leader commanding

many units, including the 529th Bomb Squadron, the 99th Operations and Maintenance Group, the 99th Tactics and Training Wing, the 28th Bomb Wing, the 45th Space Wing, and the 14th Air Force.

General Hinson later rose to positions of great responsibility, serving as the vice commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, and then later as a deputy commander of the United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

General Hinson is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, primarily flying in bomber aircraft, to include the B-52, FB-111, and the B-1.

He received many prestigious awards and decorations during a long, selfless military career that included 25 moves for his family.

General Hinson continued to support the national security of the United States upon his retirement from the Air Force, serving 9 years as the vice president of government programs and corporate lead executive at Northrop Grumman.

Continuing to answer the call of his country, General Hinson then became the founding executive director for the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska. With vision, tenacity, and leadership, he created the great team that established this Department of Defense, University Affiliated Research Center, known as UARC, at the University of Nebraska. Sponsored by U.S. Strategic Command, the National Strategic Research Institute became the first UARC supporting a combatant command.

NSRI provides scientific-based solutions across the threat spectrum and across multiple domains. With an intense mission focus, General Hinson has been the driving force, creating a trusted research institution which, today, is recognized globally for deepening U.S. strategic and operational understanding of 21st century national security challenges.

General Hinson led a team of 75 professionals, working from offices and laboratories across the University of Nebraska's campuses and near customers in the National Capital and Space Coast regions. During his tenure, NSRI has collaborated with more than 350 Nebraska University researchers and students, serving 44 customers across DOD and the Federal Government, while executing over \$300 million in Federal research funding.

In addition to his prolific and military and civilian careers, General Hinson continued contributing to his community, serving on the board of directors for several organizations, to include the STRATCOM Consultation Committee, the STRATCOM Strategic Advisory Group's Bomber Task Force Panel, the Strategic Air Command, and the Air and Space Museum. He also served on the Offutt Air Force Base Advisory Council and The Peter Kiewit Institute Board of Policy Advisors.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank General Hinson for being a mentor of mine when I commanded the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base back in 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation owes a debt of gratitude to this outstanding warrior who firmly believes in service before self and excellence in all he did. I thank General Hinson for his nearly 50 years of outstanding public service and wish him and his family all the best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
CONGRESSMAN WILL HURD AND  
CONGRESSWOMAN TULSI  
GABBARD**

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible service of two very special Members of this Chamber who are retiring after this term, WILL HURD of Texas and TULSI GABBARD of Hawaii.

WILL HURD is a native son of San Antonio, Texas, and a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he was a student body president and graduated with a degree in computer science and international relations.

After graduation, WILL spent 9 years working and serving our country for the CIA. While primarily based here in Washington, D.C., WILL was also stationed overseas in Afghanistan and Pakistan and India. And while in Pakistan, WILL worked undercover and became fluent in the native language.

In the CIA, WILL worked to keep our national security safe, thwarting terrorism across the globe, and putting nuclear weapons proliferators out of business. Part of his responsibilities in Washington was to brief Members of Congress here on the Hill on intelligence and national security issues, which undoubtedly sparked his interest in politics.

During his time in Congress, WILL has been a leading Member on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, immigration, and tech issues. He worked incredibly hard to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is able to work efficiently and effectively, modernize our immigration system, and speak on the need to stay ahead of our adversaries in cybersecurity and technology.

Also a colleague of ours, TULSI GABBARD was born in American Samoa and was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. A graduate of Hawai'i Pacific University, TULSI was elected to the Hawaii House of Representatives at age 21, the youngest legislator ever elected in the State.

A year into her service, she enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard and volunteered to deploy with her fellow soldiers in 2004. She went on two tours of duty in the Middle East, first in Iraq and later in Kuwait, and is cur-

rently serving as a major in the Army Reserves.

In between her tours of duty, TULSI served as a legislative aide to the late Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. During her time with the Senator, she worked on issues related to energy, Homeland Security, the environment, and veterans. During this time, TULSI graduated from Officer Candidate School at the Alabama Military Academy, where she was the first woman to finish as a distinguished honor graduate.

During TULSI's time in Congress, she has been a fierce advocate for veterans, servicemembers, and their families. She has worked to make their lives easier and to ensure that Congress never forgets the women and men who sacrificed for our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, WILL and TULSI have been two amazing Members of this institution. I served with WILL on the Homeland Security Committee, and I served with TULSI on the Foreign Affairs Committee. This Chamber and our Nation are better off because they chose to serve in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, both WILL and TULSI caucus with different parties in this Chamber, but they share an awful lot in common:

They are both people of class;  
They are both people of honor and dignity;

They both put their life on the line in service of our Nation;

They both are independent thinkers;  
They are both people of incredible courage;

They are both people of intellectual honesty;

They are both leaders whom I respect and look up to, both before I was in Congress and certainly now.

They are two people who served this institution well, who made our Nation proud, and I have no doubt that their time serving our Nation is not at an end.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them both for their service, for their courage, for their sacrifice, for being intellectual leaders, thought leaders, being honest, staying true to their convictions, and putting their country ahead of their party every single day of their lives. I appreciate their service, Mr. Speaker.

**SMALL BUSINESSES ARE  
STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE**

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the frustrated and, frankly, exhausted small business job-creators in my district and across the Nation who are struggling to survive while the Speaker continues to play politics with people's livelihoods.

While many States and localities begin to make the same mistake of instituting massive shutdowns, small businesses have been left high and dry.

Imagine pouring everything you have emotionally and financially into an idea; then you watch it grow and thrive, but, through no fault of your own, it gets ruined because your local government shuts you down and the Federal Government refuses to help.

The Speaker can solve this problem today by allowing a vote to unleash over \$130 billion in already-appropriated leftover PPP funding.

In addition, the House should immediately consider the Small Business Expense Protection Act, which was introduced by my friend and fellow North Carolinian, GEORGE HOLDING. That bill would clarify the confusion at the IRS and make sure that recipients can deduct PPP-financed expenses on their taxes.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation's job creators and for the sake of our workers, it is time that we act to support our fellow citizens as we enter the final stages of our battle against this virus.

#### RECOGNIZING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Computer Science Education Week. In 2009, this opportunity for awareness was established to highlight the many ways computer science education benefits individuals as well as entire industries.

Computer Science Education Week is a chance for students of all ages to learn about the importance and benefits of computer science and the endless professional opportunities that abound with a skills-based education.

I am co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, and it has been a pleasure to work across the aisle to support important educational programs like investments in computer science.

Our Nation is in desperate need of skilled workers, and career and technical education is a win-win. It can offer rewarding professional futures for learners of all ages, while simultaneously closing the Nation's skills gap.

An industry that can particularly benefit from a skilled workforce, and especially those trained in computer science, is cybersecurity.

H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act, is a bill I am proud to cosponsor with my Career and Technical Education Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island.

The Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act seeks to develop a critical infrastructure workforce that is well-trained to handle cyber threats from bad actors. H.R. 1592 authorizes \$10 million to create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education to incorporate cybersecurity

education into new and existing career and technical education programs. The bill also requires the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to better support cybersecurity education programs.

COVID-19 demonstrated how much we rely on a skilled and trained workforce, and sadly, the personal lives and careers of many Americans have been uprooted as a result of the virus. Far too many people lost their jobs through no fault of their own. That is why I was eager to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 7032, the Skills Renewal Act.

This legislation would help displaced workers gain new skills and advance their careers upon reentry into the workforce. The bill would create a \$4,000 fully refundable skills training credit to cover a wide range of career and technical education programs.

Mr. Speaker, we need a workforce that can meet modern technical demands, and students who choose a career in technical education are best suited for that challenge. Through career and technical educational programs like computer science, we can begin to close our Nation's skills gap and help individuals restore the rungs on the ladder of opportunity.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

As this second session of the 116th Congress draws near its end, and legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive, so that they may render their service as their best selves.

In this time of waiting, as people of faith prepare for holy celebrations, bless our Nation with peace and good will. May all Americans, of whatever faith or background, work together to build a commonweal—something which

can only be accomplished by Your grace.

May all that is done this day in the peoples' House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT KRESSE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Robert Kresse, a western New York champion for those who had none. Bob Kresse combined his lawyerly skills for estates and historic preservation to become a powerful force for good in Buffalo for 70 years.

Bob Kresse knew well that his vision went beyond the bricks and mortar of preservation; it was the restorative power of preservation on the hearts of the people and the community that he loved that mattered most.

Bob Kresse is survived by his beautiful family, including his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary Ann. Bob would often say that Mary Ann didn't just love him back; she was his chief collaborator and best friend always, especially in those last, most difficult days.

The Niagara River Greenway, the King Urban Life Center, the Roycroft, and the Darwin Martin House, among so many others, have a common thread, and that is Bob Kresse's uncommon vision, love, and perseverance.

#### NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1250, to create a national artificial intelligence strategy.

For decades, American leadership in emerging technologies has created prosperity and security across the world, but this leadership is no longer guaranteed. As the Chinese Communist Party continues to use any means possible to become the next world power and world's leader in AI, it is all the more vital that the U.S. have our own strategic plan.

For almost a year, Representative ROBIN KELLY and I worked with policy experts, stakeholders, and the Bipartisan Policy Center to develop guidelines that will prepare America's workforce, counter our adversaries, promote research and development, and shape the ethics of AI based on America's values.

This resolution outlines specific steps and actions the Federal Government should take to ensure our global leadership in this emerging technology. If we don't take advantage of AI, Mandarin and the yuan—not English and the dollar—could dominate the global economy.

Vladimir Putin once said that whoever masters AI will master the world. That is why America—not Russia and not China—must be at the helm.

I came to Congress to make our Nation safer, and I am proud one of my last pieces of legislation before this body will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, ROBIN KELLY, for partnering with me on this critical effort and our staffs for making this happen. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MONICA RUSSO

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the remarkable career of Monica Russo.

After decades of service, Ms. Russo is retiring as executive vice president of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the largest local union in the Nation, representing more than 400,000 healthcare workers in five States and more than 25,000 healthcare workers in Florida.

Under her leadership, 1199SEIU Florida has grown to represent more than 30,000 healthcare workers and retirees, becoming the largest union of healthcare workers in Florida and the Southern United States. She also serves as international vice president of the SEIU and as president of SEIU Florida State Council, where she politically unites more than 55,000 active and retired SEIU members, from bus drivers and janitors to healthcare workers.

Her emphasis on multicultural leadership development and grassroots, member-driven organization building has given a voice and power to healthcare workers, women, immigrants, and the working class.

Monica Russo's commitment to our Nation's working families is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my sister and dear and treasured friend. I will miss her guidance and wisdom, but our loss is her family's gain. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work.

#### PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act.

In southeast Wisconsin, the Great Lakes are vital to our environment, our economy, our health, and our way of life. Let me put it this way: If the Great Lakes region were a country, it would have the third largest economy in the world.

We must pass WRDA to protect the Great Lakes, invest in America's water infrastructure, and generate economic growth.

Earlier this year, I urged the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to include the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study and the Brandon Road project in WRDA. Both programs are included in today's bill. These programs detect vulnerabilities along the Great Lakes shoreline and prevent invasive species in the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to pass WRDA and support the Great Lakes for generations to come.

#### IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE RAIF BADAWI

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, December 10 is recognized around the world as Human Rights Day.

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that spirit, I am here today to call on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release blogger and human rights activist Raif Badawi.

In 2014, Raif Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for operating a website that encouraged debate on religious and political issues in his country.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is claiming to be a reformer intent on modernizing Saudi Arabia. Raif Badawi's case plainly disproves that claim.

Raif Badawi will soon celebrate his 37th birthday in prison, the ninth

birthday he will have spent away from his wife and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Saudi Government must immediately and unconditionally release Raif Badawi and all other Saudi prisoners of conscience.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marc Lee, who was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions on August 2, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq. Today, the House will pass my bill, H.R. 6016, to rename a U.S. Post Office in his honor.

Marc's mother, Debbie Lee, from Surprise, Arizona, in my district, had the following to say on this momentous occasion:

"Marc Lee, the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq, loved deeply and was deeply loved. He selflessly sacrificed his life to save his teammates. Naming this post office will keep his legacy alive and remind us to live lives worthy of their sacrifices."

It was my honor to introduce this legislation to remember the service and sacrifice of Marc Lee.

#### NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate passage of H. Res. 1250, recognizing the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.

In early 2018, Representative HURD, as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Information Technology, and myself, as the ranking member, held the first congressional hearing on artificial intelligence.

This resolution is born out of those hearings and the culmination of over a year's work with the Bipartisan Policy Center, bringing together experts from government, the private sector, and civil society to outline priorities to ensure the United States remains a leader in AI.

AI has the potential to fundamentally change our society. The U.S. needs a national strategy now to invest in our workforce, R&D, national security, and oversight agencies to ensure AI is a positive tool that will benefit all of society.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation was able to pass before my friend and close IT partner for the past 6 years, Representative HURD, retires from this body.

This Chamber has been made better by his spirit of bipartisanship and desire to protect our Nation and prepare

it to meet the challenges of the next century. Representative HURD's work will not be forgotten, and I will miss him dearly.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, "I have felt fear at some of the things I have seen here. I have seen amazing things and I have seen sad things, but being in Iraq makes me realize what a great country we have."

These are the words of Navy SEAL Marc Lee in his last letter home before making the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Ramadi, Iraq.

My son, Leif, served with Marc on SEAL Team 3 and was with him during his final act of honor. By all accounts, faith, courage, and determination were Marc's guiding principles. They carried him throughout his valiant career.

Thanks to Marc and many men like him, good continues to triumph over evil. In their violent wake, they leave behind humility, love, and selflessness, reminding me of John 3:13:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARC LEE

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 6016, designating the United States Postal Service facility in Arizona as the Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building. This is a fitting honor and tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class Marc Alan Lee for his heroic actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On August 2, 2006, while on patrol in Ramadi, Marc Lee fearlessly exposed himself to direct enemy fire in order to protect the lives of his teammates. He gave his life for his brothers and for our freedom.

He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day. In the words of Jocko Willink, commander of Task Unit Bruiser, Marc's unit in Iraq, Marc was "one of those rare men, those true heroes, the ones who rose above the rest of us to symbolize courage and faith and selflessness and love."

As we honor Marc Lee today, let us all recommit ourselves to cherishing the freedom for which he died and to living lives worthy of the sacrifice of all our men and women who have given their lives for our liberty.

God bless Marc and his family, and God bless the United States of America.

□ 1215

#### BIDDING FAREWELL TO SETH KLAIMAN

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to a vital member of my team and my right-hand man in Rhode Island for the last 7 years. Seth Klaiman joined my staff as district director and then my Rhode Island chief of staff after working for several cycles on my reelection campaign. The people of Rhode Island's Second District could not have asked for a more dedicated public servant.

Seth worked nonstop, and he embodied the phrase "underpromise and overdeliver." His organizational skills are unparalleled, and he was instrumental in helping me manage my most valuable resource, my time, on behalf of the people of Rhode Island.

Seth is leaving to serve as chief of staff to our State Treasurer, Seth Magaziner. It is a terrific opportunity for him to continue to serve the Ocean State. And while I am sad to see him go, I wish him the very best of luck in his new role.

To Seth, his wife, Ann, and their new son, Sebastian, I offer my sincerest thanks for your years making me look good and all the work you have done on behalf of the people of Rhode Island. I often say that we are only as good as the people around us, and I am lucky to have had a decade spent with you.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK "PAL" BARGER, JR.

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a giant in northeast Tennessee and my friend, Frederick "Pal" Barger, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 90.

Pal's impact on our community was tremendous. Pal is best known for Pal's Sudden Service, a drive-through restaurant with rapid service, great food, and affordable prices.

In 2001, Pal's became the first restaurant to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence. Pal is one of northeast Tennessee's best success stories.

Pal's commitment to excellence didn't stop at the drive-through window. He received recognition throughout his life for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to help our region prosper.

I am especially grateful for Pal's contributions to his alma mater, East Tennessee State University, which have greatly impacted so many of our region's current and future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of Pal Barger for his tremendous impact on our community.

#### HONORING COACH NICK GIEBER

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kansas Middle School wrestling coach Nick Gieber. To be clear, he is not dead. He is way too tough for that.

For decades, Coach Gieber would transform boys into men through wrestling practices that were so hard we thought that death was an option. But it wasn't just developing us mentally and physically, he also developed a sense of camaraderie, rapport, integrity, and honor. He would say, "You never know, boys. Today could be the most beautiful day in the world."

Coach Gieber, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives, thank you. And you never know, today could be the most beautiful day in the world.

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#### NATIONAL BORINQUENEERS DAY

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NDAA.

This bill includes an amendment I introduced, along with Representative MURPHY and Senator RICK SCOTT, to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Borinqueneers, by designating April 13 as National Borinqueneers Day.

On April 13, 2016, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to these patriots for their numerous contributions to American history and their outstanding military service from World War I through the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This bill also authorizes \$37 million in military construction funding for the National Guard Readiness Center in Puerto Rico. It also includes the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, which incorporates my amendment requiring the Coast Guard Academy Minority Outreach Team program to include officers from the U.S. territories, and requiring the Academy's diversity report to include information on the effectiveness of outreach and recruitment efforts for the territories as well.

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#### JOSEPH RAINEY: 150 YEARS

(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. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, America recognizes 150 years since Joseph Rainey, the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, took office.

I am grateful for South Carolinian Joseph Rainey, a Republican, a champion of civil rights, for breaking

ground for so many African Americans who followed in his footsteps.

Last week, it was announced there will be a House exhibition entitled, "Joseph Rainey: 150 Years." The exhibition shares Rainey's impact from the 1870s through the 1970s. The power and importance of voting rights are at the heart of the exhibition, which tells this tumultuous history through objects, images, documents, and words of African-American Members of Congress who have lived and legislated through it.

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

Congratulations to President Donald Trump for leading South Carolina Republicans to the most success in 140 years since Congressman Rainey began the Republican Party.

#### PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, marked the 79th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor naval base attack.

On December 7, 1941, the surprise attack by the Japanese on a U.S. Naval base in Hawaii left nearly 2,500 people dead. Innocent lives were taken; members of the United States Navy, Army, Marines, as well as civilians. It remains one of the deadliest attacks in American history, often described as "a date which will live in infamy," according to a quote by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Every year on December 7, we pause to reflect and remember the sacrifice made by the men and women who perished in the attack on Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt went on to say, "No matter how long it will take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the selflessness and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, that is exactly what they did. God bless all of our Pearl Harbor victims, the survivors, and their families.

#### A JUST AND PROPER FIGHT

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the NDAA, not because I am against our troops, but because I love them so much.

America's fighting men and women are so precious that they should not have to die in some failed state, some faraway land that most Americans can't even point to on a map so that defense contractors can extend our involvement in these wars, so that lobbyists can get rich, and so that Members of Congress can get reelected.

This good bill has been hijacked by the forever war lobby and their bought-and-paid-for allies in the United States Congress. It puts barriers in the way of an administration that wants to bring our troops home and put America first. This legislation has become too swampy. It does good things to ensure that America can vanquish any foe on the battlefield, but we should only fight when that fight is just and proper.

Mr. Speaker, we have spent two decades trading the same villages back and forth in Afghanistan. And I believe that the administration that leads our country should work to bring those troops home, and unfortunately, this bill does exactly the opposite. From Afghanistan, from Germany, and elsewhere, I am going to put America first and I am voting against this bill.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6395, WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of December 3, 2020, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, December 3, 2020, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 3, 2020, at Book II, page H6145.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report before us today. This is the defense policy bill, and this is an incredibly important piece of legislation. There is a lot of public debate about different issues that sort of rise to the level of people

arguing about, and they are very important, passionate issues. But lost in that sometimes is the basic substance of what we do in the defense policy bill, and that is, we exercise our legislative authority to do oversight of the Pentagon and national security policy.

And on that measure, this year's bill is an incredibly important piece of legislation. To begin with, we address the issue of diversity within the military. I really want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, specifically ANTHONY BROWN, VERONICA ESCOBAR, and RUBEN GALLEGU for putting forward policy that will address the diversity problems that we have.

Mr. Speaker, our military right now in its leadership and in its recruitment does not adequately reflect the diversity of this country. This bill puts in place a chief diversity officer at the Pentagon and takes a number of other steps to try to correct that, to make sure that we have a military that reflects diversity of this country and that meets the equity and social justice requirements. I think that is an incredibly important policy statement, and a step forward.

We also implement a number of the provisions from a defense policy board led by Eric Schmidt and Bob Work focusing on artificial intelligence. I heard some Members speaking earlier about the importance of that. We have a series of recommendations for how the Department of Defense can do a better job of getting AI right, developing the technology and using it, but also broader technologies as well. The Pentagon is woefully behind right now in taking advantage of the technologies that are crucial to getting us the proper defense going forward. I think that is incredibly important.

Mr. Speaker, we also have a provision that Ranking Member THORNBERRY worked on. It is not the most sexy or exciting thing in the world. It is 300 pages of cleaning up the technical problems within the acquisition process at the Pentagon, but it is crucially important.

We have so many innovative technologies, so many small businesses out there that are generating great ideas that would be terrific for the Pentagon, but they can't get in. They can't penetrate the bureaucracy and figure out how to even do business, so most of them walk away. It is crucially important that we take steps to fix that.

We also have a provision I have worked on a lot dealing with satellites and launch. Same thing—encourage competition, encourage innovation. Regrettably, the Pentagon has a somewhat understandable bias towards incumbents. They also have a bias towards large companies. But what that does is it makes it harder for that innovation, for those new technologies that are crucial to get through. We make changes to address that.

We also have a provision in this bill to deal with Agent Orange, to make

sure that we are taking care of our troops, because that is a crucial part of our oversight as well, to make sure that once the fighting is done, we don't forget the people who fought, that we help them.

For too long, veterans have not been able to access the healthcare they deserve. This bill addresses that. I know that MARK TAKANO and JOSH HARDER on our side worked very hard on that issue and I thank them for that. It is crucially important.

Mr. Speaker, I also take a moment to address the concerns that Representative GAETZ raised. He is not accurate in saying that we stop the President from being able to move troops. All we do in Afghanistan is we say, Make sure you give us a reason. And then, frankly, if the President doesn't give us a reason, he can exercise a national security waiver and not follow our advice. It is simply advice that says, Yes, in our opinion, we need to get out of Afghanistan, but we need to do it responsibly.

□ 1230

It is a way crazy overstatement to say that we prevent a Chief Executive from pulling out of Afghanistan. This bill does not do that. It merely says, if you are going to do it, make sure that you do it right so that we protect our troops as we make that decision.

I think that is not an accurate description of what this bill does.

But overall, I want to remind people, it is incredibly important that we pass this piece of legislation for a couple of basic reasons.

Number one, we are the legislative body. The one thing we have in common—House, Senate, Democrat, Republican—is that we are all legislators. We all represent people. If we don't do our job, if we don't pass this bill and exercise oversight, we are ceding authority to the executive branch, authority that is too great already. I think Democrats and Republicans agree on this as well. Granted, when there is a Democratic President, Republicans are more enthusiastic about it, and when there is a Republican President, Democrats are more enthusiastic about it. But we all agree there is too much executive power and not enough legislative oversight.

Let's not walk away from our biggest opportunity every year to exercise that legislative oversight. This is a good bill. If we don't do this, we are not fulfilling one key aspect of our duties to our constituents.

Also, the legislative process itself, I think, is incredibly important. These are times when we have a deeply divided Nation and a deeply divided Congress, but that is precisely the moment when legislative authority is so important. It is how we come together and solve problems.

I will tell you, Senator INHOFE and I disagree on a lot. We also do not have a lot in common.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, we have come together on this bill because we recognize the importance of that process. You have to learn how to work with people you disagree with in order for civil society to function. That is what we have done.

Now, sadly, this is the only conference report that we will vote on this session. I think it might be the only one we have voted on in the last 2 years. I could be wrong about that. But if not, it is one of the precious few. That shows you how far we are drifting away from exercising our responsibilities.

If Senator INHOFE and I can come together and agree on this, then I think we can all understand that this is a good bipartisan compromise that we all should support.

I want to close by thanking the staff. I have not worked with a better group of people on anything I have ever done in my life; the House staff, the Senate staff, all outstanding people doing a difficult job.

I also want to do something I haven't done before, and that is specifically thank the legislative counsel and also apologize. Every year, we put this bill together seemingly at the last minute. It is a very big bill. We come up with our ideas, we turn them over to the legislative counsel at 2 o'clock in the morning on Sunday, and say, "Please do this."

I am sorry. We are going to try to do better in the future. But thank you, thank you, thank you for the outstanding work that you do.

Lastly, I want to thank MAC. This bill was named after him—over his objection, by the way. He has done an outstanding job as chairman and as ranking member of this committee. He will be missed. I really thank him for his leadership. Without him, this would not be possible.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to continue our chairman's lauding of the career of MAC THORNBERRY, again, over his objections. In my 18 years that I have served in Congress, I can tell you, not only has his leadership been essential on the Armed Services Committee, but his time, both as chairman and ranking member, has been incredibly important. He has served the Nation well.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership. We have truly a bipartisan bill in front of us, and it is a result of MAC THORNBERRY and ADAM SMITH, their work to try to ensure that we do put America first.

Contrary to the prior speaker—before we began to debate this bill, we heard accusations that this did not put America first. This puts America first. What is essential about this is that our

adversaries are gaining on our capabilities. They are investing in modernization. They are investing in capabilities that will threaten our ability to ensure our safety and our liberty. This bill is about America first.

I would like to highlight a few key issues in this bill.

First, the conference report fully authorizes the administration's budget request for the National Nuclear Security Administration. These funds are critical to ensuring our nuclear weapons enterprise remains safe, secure, and effective going into the future. We have put off needed investment too long. There is no longer any margin of error or delay. Now, the NNSA must transform from a culture of sustainment and maintenance to a culture of development and manufacturing to meet the nuclear safety environment of the future.

Second, I am pleased that the conference report removes a provision that would have prohibited the NNSA from conducting necessary testing and experimentation.

Next, the conference report funds the ground based strategic deterrent, the replacement for the Minuteman III, which has provided the Nation with a nuclear security umbrella for half a century. Transition to the ground-based strategic deterrent will be one of the most complex projects the Federal Government has ever undertaken.

The bill also continues the progress of Space Force, and the bill makes serious investments in missile defense by funding the Missile Defense Agency's highest unfunded priorities. It authorizes funds for nine SM-3 Block IIA missiles and a new THAAD battery.

The conference report also includes a provision directing the DOD to collaborate with research centers so that we can bring forward information on our adversaries and what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to vote for this bill. It is important for the future and the security of America.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. I have served with Ranking Member MAC THORNBERRY for nearly 20 years, and I thank him for his service to the Nation and for his bipartisan leadership.

Mac, it has been an honor, and you will be missed.

I congratulate my colleagues, particularly Chairman ADAM SMITH, for his leadership in crafting the National Defense Authorization Act for the 60th consecutive year.

The portions of the NDAA under my purview provide direction and oversight for Special Operations Forces and

the defense intelligence enterprise. The bill supports scientists and funds STEM programs that will diversify our workforce. It also advances several policy priorities in artificial intelligence and cyberspace, including 27 recommendations from the Cyberspace Solarium Commission on which I serve.

Among the most important, notably, this bill establishes a long-overdue provision that I authored, the Senate-confirmed national cyber director within the Executive Office of the President. The national cyber director will be the singular point of strategy development and implementation and will provide vital coordination to keep us safe in cyberspace.

This bill also funds two Virginia-class submarines and the first Columbia-class submarine. I was proud to work with Chairman COURTNEY to fight cuts to the President's budget that would have eliminated a Virginia-class submarine. I am equally proud to represent the workers in Rhode Island who make such important and unique contributions to building the most sophisticated weapons systems ever built, which are vital to our national security.

In all of my efforts on the NDAA, I have been privileged to serve with my ranking member, Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK, by my side. I thank her for her contributions and her commitment to bipartisanship.

I also want to thank my colleagues and the staff on the Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee and my personal staff for their tireless efforts to get the NDAA across the finish line.

Finally, this bill provides a 3 percent pay raise for our men and women in uniform, although no price can ever be put on their invaluable service. Every day, servicemembers put their lives on the line to protect our way of life and keep us safe at home, and we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan commitment to national security.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say our country and our military are a better place because of Ranking Member THORNBERRY's hard work, involvement, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This NDAA continues the Armed Services Committee's commendable bipartisan tradition.

I am particularly happy with the following aspects of the conference report that affect readiness.

It authorizes over \$250 billion for operations and maintenance, including facilities sustainment and \$8 billion in new military construction.

It reforms logistics and sustainment to better align the Department's support to the National Defense Strategy while ensuring that sustainment planning is emphasized early in major weapon system acquisition.

It extends critical land withdrawals for the Navy and the Air Force to perform training activities at the Fallon Range Training Complex and the Nevada Test and Training Range. These are vital to the readiness of our aviation forces.

It provides the Air Force with much-needed flexibility to synchronize military construction and weapons system fielding for the ground-based strategic deterrent system.

It continues to reform military family housing with better remediation of severe environmental hazards.

These are just some of the important improvements in readiness that the NDAA accomplishes.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY for their leadership to complete the NDAA, along with Readiness Subcommittee Chairman JOHN GARAMENDI.

Passing this bill signals the clear support of Congress to our military members and their families. If not enacted, these critical readiness authorities and vital matters like military pay raises will not happen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2021 William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act.

I want to begin by congratulating Chairman SMITH and Mr. THORNBERRY for their persistent teamwork in bringing this bill to fruition. It is the way Congress is supposed to work.

Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces made a significant mark in this year's bill. Last February, the President's budget, out of nowhere, cut the Navy's shipbuilding budget by 17 percent, including the removal of an entire Virginia-class attack submarine, with no rationale or 30-year shipbuilding plan, as required by law.

Our subcommittee led the way in fully restoring that submarine, having listened to the combatant commanders who have articulated the need for that repeatedly, and adding a fast transport ship, bringing the total new ships in this bill to nine, two more than requested in the Trump budget.

We also focused attention on our domestic sealift fleet. The final bill authorizes half a billion dollars for the Maritime Security Program to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our domestic sealift fleet and creates a new tanker security fleet aimed at addressing alarming gaps in at-sea logistics.

The bill enhances crucial airlift programs by funding our next-generation refueler, the KC-46A, and rejecting harmful cuts in our refueling fleet.

The final agreement also includes a provision that sets a firm floor in support of more than a dozen State Governors' requests to preserve the C-130 aircraft for the Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a bipartisan bill that represents the hard work and input of Members on both sides of the aisle.

Thank you to my friend, Ranking Member ROB WITTMAN, for his amazing friendship and work, and our colleagues on the subcommittee for their hard work in crafting this year's bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote today.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the conference report to accompany the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act.

For the past 59 years, Congress has passed the NDAA on a bipartisan basis for one simple reason: Politics must never, ever stand between the American people and the security of our country. This record of bipartisan unity is unrivaled in our history and a testament to what we can do when we come together to ensure that the needs of our Nation are met.

As a conferee, I can proudly say that this bill wisely balances the differences between each Chamber and puts America's security first.

Let me say at the outset that I am in agreement with the President's concerns about section 230 and the need to deny broad immunity to tech companies that abuse legal protections to censor voices that do not share their particular political viewpoints.

However, as important as this issue is, it falls outside the jurisdiction of this bill and deserves its own debate and a separate vote so that every Member of Congress is on record where they stand. For Members considering to vote "no" because of this issue, ask yourself: Do you think you will get a better bill in 2 months? The answer is no.

I wish to commend the outstanding leadership of Chairman SMITH and my friend MAC THORNBERRY for navigating this bill through conference. Under their leadership, this legislation will continue the readiness recovery we began 4 years ago.

It will fully fund modernization of our strategic nuclear deterrence. It ensures America's military advantage well into the future with necessary investments in air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace. It directs the Secretary of Defense to establish emergency medical surge partnerships with Federal, State, and local entities, universities, and private healthcare providers to prepare for future pandemics. It keeps the faith of our servicemembers and military families.

This bill also provides long-overdue support and relief to veterans suffering from toxic exposure. As an airman who deployed four times, I served with many who were exposed to burn pits and now suffer from tumors in their lungs. This bill grants presumptive benefits for veterans suffering from these illnesses and requires the VA to fast-track disability statuses.

So this conference report provides our servicemembers the tools they need to defend America. On the 60th consecutive NDAA, I am proud to have helped craft this bill, and I thank the statesmanship of MAC THORBERRY, whose name it bears.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

□ 1245

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him and Mr. THORBERRY for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor in a strong bipartisan way.

I am proud to support the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that honors our values, strengthens our security, and advances our leadership in the world.

I, again, salute Chairman SMITH. I congratulate Ranking Member THORBERRY for his service in the Congress. I know this legislation is named for him. That is pretty exciting for all of us. I don't know if it is for him, but it is exciting for the rest of us.

I thank the members of the committee for their patriotic, persistent leadership on this legislation; it reflects the brilliance and the collaboration we can have. Nearly half the members contributed to parts of this bill.

While we would have liked to have seen the House version of this legislation, we can all take pride that the NDAA, again, will strengthen our national security for years to come.

I am particularly pleased with some of the issues in the bill that are supportive of our troops. This NDAA, Mr. Speaker, incorporates key Democratic priorities, including supporting our troops' financial security, authorizing a long-overdue pay raise and hazard duty pay, extending paid parental leave to civilian employees who had not been included, and providing long-overdue benefits to Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

This issue has been an issue for a long time in our country and in this Congress, and it needed some expansion. I am glad in this legislation the exposure extends to hypothyroidism, bladder cancer, and Parkinson's. If you are there and you have this, it is connected.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally interested in this because many years ago, before I was in Congress, in our community in California, we had a big—in LA, actually, we had a big hunger

strike by Vietnam vets over Agent Orange. This was, like, 35 years ago, long before Congress acted on this. They were on a hunger strike, and I went to be sympathetic and show support. I was chair of the California Democratic Party at the time.

Dick Gregory came. Dick Gregory had been on many hunger strikes for one thing or another, civil rights, this and that. He taught them that, if you are on a hunger strike, you must show-er, you must hydrate, hydrate, hydrate; telling them how not to make themselves sick because they were on a hunger strike, but to control that damage.

I was particularly pleased to be there with Dick Gregory because my brother and he served in the Army in Texas together. In those days—that was in the fifties, a long time ago—my brother was Dick Gregory's friend, at a time when there wasn't so much, shall we say, integration among the troops. So we had that personal connection.

Then, once again, with our Vietnam-era vets, when it came to Agent Orange. So I commend you all personally, patriotically, and in every way for taking care of our vets there.

Then the families, defending their health and well-being and that of their families, improving housing and access to childcare, improving pandemic response, protecting military communities from dangerous PFAS chemicals, and addressing sexual assault in the military.

JACKIE SPEIER has been such a champion on that issue, and I thank her for that.

Combating our adversaries and investing in our allies with important tools to deter China and Russia, fight transnational threats, and further strengthening our partnership with Israel.

Bringing our defense further into the 21st century with reforms to make the Pentagon more efficient and innovative, important bipartisan provisions on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and key investments in military construction and base realignment.

This NDAA is momentous in this respect, as Congress comes together on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to begin the process of changing the names of military bases and infrastructure named after individuals who served in the Confederacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to know that this isn't names of things that, oh, my gosh, later we found out that so-and-so did this and that, that was so wrong. This was a decision made to name these bases after people, White supremacists, and those who were part of the Confederacy. The men for whom these bases were named are not heroes. They are named for traitors who took up arms against America and killed American soldiers in defense of slavery.

As I have said before, there is no room for celebrating the violent big-

otry of the men of the Confederacy in any place of honor across our country, whether in the hallowed Halls of the United States Capitol or on our military bases.

Changing the hateful names of these bases is supported by an overwhelming majority of the American people, by our Active Duty servicemen and -women, and by top military leaders.

And now the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I hope not. I hope not. This bipartisan policy bill has been signed into law for 59 consecutive years. Let us urge the President to a show respect for the work of the bipartisan, bicameral Congress, and for the sacrifice of our military.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan vote for this legislation, which upholds our values, honors our troops, and keeps the America people safe. And I hope that it will be swiftly signed into law.

I just want to make the further point that the strength of our Nation, of course, depends on our strength that we are talking about here, but it also depends on the health and well-being of the American people. So as we have our budget debate and the rest, let us recognize that the health and well-being of the American people, whether it is the education of our children, the security of our economy, and the rest, and so many other aspects of our budgeting here, that this is one element of the strength of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote. I congratulate Mr. THORBERRY for his namesake bill, and I acknowledge the great leadership of our chair, ADAM SMITH. I want to also acknowledge ANTHONY BROWN, who did such a tremendous piece of work on the base renamings.

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I am grateful that this bill bears the name of a public servant who has fought tirelessly throughout his 26 years in Congress for our men and women in uniform, and whose steadfast and wise leadership has made such a difference. This legislation is a fitting tribute to his enduring legacy.

As ranking member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, I am pleased this conference agreement builds on the progress we have made in rebuilding military readiness after years of deferred modernization.

Through targeted oversight, this agreement will set the right conditions to ensure needed capabilities required for the national defense strategy and credible deterrence are delivered in a timely manner to maintain our competitive edge against Russia and China.

A few examples of these critical capabilities include funding for 12 F-15EX aircraft; an additional \$1.2 billion for

F-35 Joint Strike Fighters for a total of 93 F-35 aircraft; funding for 24 F-18 Super Hornets to include an additional \$28 million for advance procurement; strong support for the Army's identified big six modernization priorities, such as future vertical lift and long-range precision fires; an additional \$104 million for Army Ammunition Plant modernization; and an additional \$150 million for National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment modernization.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to, again, thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY for his leadership, thank Chairman ADAM SMITH for his steadfast and fair handling of the committee and this vital bill, and thank our subcommittee chairman, DONALD NORCROSS, for his spirit of bipartisanship.

In addition, this conference report wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of the entire subcommittee staff, and I thank them all.

The NDAA has always been a product of bipartisan consensus, whose purpose has always been to support our troops and to protect American national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill and vote "yes" on H.R. 6395 for the 60th year in a row.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time and for his outstanding leadership, patience, and perseverance.

I also thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY for his many years of distinguished service to our Nation, both in the military and in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the committee, Mr. KELLY; also the committee staff, Craig, David, Hannah; and my personal staff, Josh, Brian, and Luke.

Before I speak about the conference agreement, I feel like I must speak about the Fort Hood Independent Review, which was ordered after Specialist Vanessa Guillen's murder. This is the report. It is being released in a matter of 3 minutes by the Secretary of the Army. I won't go into details, but I will say that it is a damning expose of a system at Fort Hood that does a shameful disservice to the sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families.

The report makes clear what I have been saying since before I was on the Armed Services Committee, that the Army sexual assault and harassment response has failed, that servicemembers are afraid to report, believe they will not be taken seriously and will be retaliated against, and that major systemic changes are needed, including greater independence from the chain of command for handling sexual assault and harassment.

Any parent reading this report would have to ask themselves: Is my son or daughter safe in the military?

This bill is not perfect. Important provisions on sexual assault and domestic violence were left out. But this conference agreement would make progress, including a new confidential reporting option for sexual harassment and a provision to ensure that servicemembers who report sexual assault are not disciplined for related minor infractions.

It also includes a pay raise for servicemembers, long-overdue provisions to promote racial and gender equity within the armed services, including goals for accessions and promotions of persons of color and women, as well as the creation of a new deputy inspector general for diversity and inclusion that will investigate White supremacists' activities by servicemembers.

Additionally, the bill expands support for childcare and provides for exceptional family member services.

Therefore, I will be voting for the bill, and I hope my colleagues will join me in this. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize that this is just the beginning. We have more to do. More lives are lost and must be accounted for.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I am proud of our oversight and legislative activities this year, which have included recharging our science and technology enterprise, strengthening our Nation's cybersecurity, expanding the resources and authorities for irregular warfare activities across the globe, and bolstering our biological threat and pandemic preparedness efforts.

Two years ago, I introduced legislation in the NDAA that created the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence with the purpose of accelerating and advancing the development of AI across the Federal Government. I applaud the commission for their work on this important issue, and I am pleased that this conference report includes 17 of those recommendations, including elevating the role of the Joint AI Center; modernizing how the DOD attracts and retains AI talent; and ensuring our AI research ecosystem maintains its competitive advantage over China.

□ 1300

Second, this bill extends and expands the opportunities for our Special Operations Forces to partner with foreign forces, build critical relationships, and more effectively counter the malign influences of Russia and China. This bill also ensures that all of our Special Operations Forces—active duty, reserve, National Guard and their families are provided the care and support that they deserve.

Third, this bill takes concrete steps to protect critical defense tech-

nologies, strengthen cybersecurity cooperation with the defense industrial base, and rebuild our domestic manufacturing capabilities for sensitive microelectronics and semiconductor components. This bill brings transparency to Federally funded research while at the same time restricting foreign influence on our university campuses.

As the chief advocate for Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division, I am proud to deliver results for the Army's most deployed division since 9/11. This year's NDAA addresses our homeland missile defense, as Fort Drum is named as the preferred East Coast missile defense site. I am also proud to include provisions that require plans for renovating child development centers and review of IT infrastructure enhancements at Army mission training complexes. These provisions are critical to enhance readiness and ensure the 10th Mountain Division can conduct safe and secure operations.

I recognize my partner, my colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island. And lastly, I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY for his extraordinary leadership and guidance, not only this year, but in many years of his truly exemplary service. He is a giant in the people's House, and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and vote "yes."

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am pleased to support the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. Thankfully, maintaining a tradition of bipartisanship to get the 60th, a record, National Defense Authorization Act through the House and then through conference with the Senate is no small feat, particularly during a global pandemic.

I thank, in particular, our outstanding Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY for their leadership, as well as Ranking Member MIKE TURNER for his partnership in the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, and all of the conferees for getting to this point.

In particular, I would like to thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY for his extraordinary leadership on the HASC over the last 6 years, and I am happy to congratulate my friend and colleague, MIKE ROGERS, as the next HASC ranking member.

The Strategic Forces provisions in the bill would not have been in place without the outstanding staff work of Leonor Tomero, Maria Vastola, and Grant Schneider as the lead staffers.

These provisions support our nuclear forces and nuclear nonproliferation. They also enhance oversight of the warhead acquisition and plutonium pit production programs, which continue to be major undertakings.

The conference report supports regional missile defense efforts, restores funding to critical radar discrimination capabilities, and provides needed oversight on the next generation of interceptors in order to ensure fly-before-you-buy principles in this \$10 billion program.

The report acknowledges the increased focus on development and delivery of conventional hypersonic weapons, while also initiating efforts to address broad policy concerns regarding the risk of miscalculation as these new strategic-level weapons are fielded.

With regard to the rapidly transforming space domain, the conference report supports innovative commercial capabilities, competition, and the emergence of small-launch providers to provide national security as well as the codification of the Space Development Agency's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong vote in favor of this conference report.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As ranking member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, I stand before you today in proud support of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021. The conference report reflects bipartisan compromise that has been a hallmark of this committee for 59 consecutive years.

The National Defense Authorization Act has always been about ensuring the national defense of the United States, which would be impossible without appropriate focus on the men and women who tirelessly serve this country; and appropriate focus on their families who serve this great Nation by supporting their loved ones time and again; through the deployments, the training periods and all the challenges of day-to-day living. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. The NDAA also preserves a number of robust TRICARE and retirement benefits for our retirees.

To this end, we addressed a number of significant and overdue policy issues that would directly improve the quality of life of our servicemembers and their families.

The NDAA authorizes a 3 percent increase in basic pay for servicemembers. It also standardizes the payment of hazardous duty incentive pay and increases hazardous duty pay from \$250 to \$275 a month for members of the uniformed services.

The NDAA reinforces the committee's longstanding commitment to the military family by requiring the Department of Defense to redefine military family readiness and military personnel resiliency, and it provides for significant reforms in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Of course, the NDAA also addresses COVID-19.

This is an outstanding bipartisan NDAA dedicated to our servicemembers, military families, and retirees, and gives them the care and support they need, deserve, and have earned.

I thank my staff, Sergeant Major Jeremy Barton, my Army Fellow; Rodney Hall, my MLA; and our MILPER staff, Glen Diehl and Paul Golden. I thank Chairwoman SPEIER for working together with me to do a great Military Personnel mark. Finally, I thank MAC THORNBERRY, a mentor, leader, and friend.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and certainly for his leadership in bringing this conference report to the floor for the 60th year. And certainly, I take a moment to thank MAC THORNBERRY, who this conference report is named after, for his leadership, and certainly MIKE ROGERS. They are the type of Members that we all should look toward in terms of being bipartisan and working toward a goal.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report continues the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee's long tradition of bipartisanship to make America's Armed Forces the best in the world. I commend the hard work of our Members, my colleagues, our staff, certainly in these unusual and demanding circumstances brought on by the coronavirus.

I also thank Ranking Member HARTZLER for her leadership and commitment to working toward a goal of keeping America safe. Our cooperation has kept us focused on what is truly important. We have delivered a defense bill that meets the modernization and readiness needs of our Nation's air and land forces.

This bill carefully manages our military resources while increasing the Department of Defense program oversight to make sure that we do our job, particularly in the F-35, our most advanced weapons system and also the most expensive in U.S. history.

But we are also looking at manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, and continued oversight of the Army's new modernization strategy with respect to Army aviation, including the CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Also, I take a moment for our national defense and the priorities of keeping America safe and New Jersey safe while ensuring the KC-10 refuelers are not retired prematurely and making sure the KC-46s are being delivered on time.

I am grateful this bill includes that 3 percent pay raise, taking care of military families and also providing affordable childcare on bases. Making sure that your children are safe is incredibly important.

I am proud of the hard work this committee has done to continue to

serve America's national security interests.

Mr. Speaker, this bill deserves our support, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THORNBERRY for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a period of great power competition. These are not just words; this is our new reality. We are seeing Russian, Chinese, Iranian, and North Korean aggression on a global scale. This is why I am confounded by some pundits who believe cutting defense spending at a time of great power competition is in our best interest. Anything less than our negotiated defense topline is capitulating our global standing to an ever-expanding China and Russia hegemony.

Additionally, there are some who believe that we should not pass this defense bill this Congress. I want to remind my friends that we are already 68 days late in delivering this defense bill to our Nation. Harmed by our delay is almost \$8 billion in troop military construction. Harmed by our inaction is the potential shuttering of our Air Force's and Navy's premier training ranges at Nellis and Fallon. And most importantly, harmed by our continuing neglect are the countless servicemembers who rely on us for reasonable pay and benefits to support our national security. We must do better.

As to my Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, our conference is all about great power competition. We authorize an additional *Virginia* class submarine and eight additional P-8 submarine hunting aircraft to partially offset these great power advances. We pay down future readiness with our continued support of the next-generation bomber and *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine programs. And finally, we procure the long-neglected logistics that are essential to power projection. This is a strong mark to pay down our generation's contribution to our Nation's future.

While I want to acknowledge Chairmen Smith and Courtney's leadership in their efforts as chairman of the full committee and chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I want to particularly thank MAC THORNBERRY for his 26 years of Congressional service. MAC, thank you so much for your leadership, for your continued focus and dedication to our Nation and to those brave men and women that serve this Nation.

I also thank Congressman MIKE ROGERS and congratulate him on his new role as the future Republican leader of the House Armed Services Committee. MIKE, congratulations. We look forward to the continuation of the legacy of leadership from MAC THORNBERRY to you.

We have all seen the great service and great stewardship provided by both Chairman THORNBERRY and others, and,

my friends, at this moment this is our time. Anything less than action on this bill now is turning our backs and ignores the servicemembers and their families who continue to serve the Nation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

I recognize Mrs. DAVIS is retiring after 22 years of service on the committee. It has been great working with her, and I appreciate her leadership.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this will be my 20th and final NDAA. As I prepare to seek other challenges, I want to remind my colleagues of the incredible work that can get done with this legislation, especially when patience is required.

Since joining the Armed Services Committee, I have seen our focus change. At the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we focused on the critical needs of our troops fighting every day. Now, our focus has shifted more towards innovation and future needs of our troops. But we can't forget that this bill is not just about spending on things, it is about our servicemembers and their families. We cannot forget the importance of the sacrifices that they make. It is hard to even convey the magnitude of their service.

The military can enhance performance by caring for every member of the military community, something that we hear every day from military leaders that, quite honestly, we didn't hear 20 years ago. But there is more work to be done. We must ensure no military family goes hungry and no military spouse is forced to leave the workforce because of a military move or lack of childcare.

The military can enhance performance by fostering an environment where the opportunities for advancement include all who are willing to work hard. When I began serving on the HASC, the idea of women in combat roles or LGBTQ Americans serving openly was only a distant dream. Today, we understand the importance of diversity in our ranks. That strategic focus brings the best and the brightest Americans forward to serve. Where any discrimination persists, it must end.

We have focused so much on the prevention of sexual assault and harassment.

I recently came across a picture taken at a breakfast on this issue with General James Amos in 2010, then the commandant of the Marine Corps. He asked one of his mid-level officers if she would report an assault if it occurred. She responded unequivocally, no. Much to his surprise.

□ 1315

We have made sincere policy changes to address this horrible problem, but the fight continues.

This bipartisan legislation is the culmination of many of the efforts of many Members. There is much good in

it and much that is needed to support our servicemembers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, very quickly, our outstanding Chair SMITH, our dedicated Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the amazing professional staff who made this all possible. I will miss them all, and I know the critical work in service to our Nation continues.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chairman ADAM SMITH and Ranking Member MAC THORNBERRY for their dedicated work on developing this bipartisan bill appropriately named in honor of Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, an American patriot.

As a member of the conference committee, I appreciated the opportunity to work on another historically important NDAA. Enactment of this bill will be the 60th consecutive fiscal year that the NDAA has passed, exhibiting the true bipartisan nature of the process.

I am thankful for the provision of a 3 percent military pay increase, which represents the first time in a decade the troops have consecutively received a salary boost of at least 3 percent.

The most recent report contains the Guardian and Reserve Hazard Duty Pay Equity Act, a bipartisan bill introduced with Representative ANDY KIM. I was grateful to lead a letter with Representative KIM urging its inclusion.

I am also especially grateful that my bill, the Body Armor for Females Modernization Act, was included to ensure that female servicemembers have the right equipment from day one.

This legislation contains the Small Manufacturer Cybersecurity Enhancement Act, a bill I introduced with Representative JIMMY PANETTA, which will allow the Department to partner with manufacturing extension partnership centers to provide assistance to small manufacturers.

There is full funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative at USC Aiken and PILT and pit production at the Savannah River site.

It also incorporates a bipartisan bill I introduced with Representative ED PERLMUTTER to ensure continued funding for the Office of the Ombudsman in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program.

I appreciate the success of staff member Drew Kennedy and military fellow Major Jeremy Tillman.

I support this conference report, remembering 9/11 and the murderous attacks, by defeating the terrorists overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN), the vice chair of the committee.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his exemplary leadership, Representative

THORNBERRY for his career service to our men and women in uniform, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

This bill strengthens our military, makes our country safer, and provides for our servicemembers and their families.

National security isn't simply defined by the planes and ships we buy, but in the values we promote within the military and for our Nation.

This legislation is a significant step forward for diversity, inclusion, and justice in our Armed Forces, core American values that our military must promote.

Today's military is the most diverse in our history, with people of color making up more than 40 percent of Active-Duty servicemembers. And as our country reckons with systemic racism, so, too, does our military.

By affirming our founding values, this NDAA enhances military readiness and taps into the diverse talents and skills of our country.

We elevate the chief diversity officer to report directly to the Secretary of Defense and service secretaries.

We provide for better accountability, transparency, and reporting on our diversity efforts.

We ensure equity in promotion boards by removing pictures and other identifying information that could bias these processes. Officers will instead be judged solely on what matters: their performance.

We foster new leaders in our military to reflect the diversity of our country and support their career development, from Junior ROTC to service academies and historically Black colleges and universities, to our elite units.

We correct racial inequities in our military justice system by appointing a deputy inspector general to investigate racial disparities.

And after years of delay, we finally rename bases and property honoring the Confederacy.

With support from Congress, barrier-breaking leaders in our military, and the American people, we will lead with our values.

Mr. Speaker, for a more equitable country and military, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the next Republican leader of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY and Chairman SMITH for their leadership in this essential process to ensure America's security.

This bill takes important steps forward to confront China by establishing the Indo-Pacific Deterrence Initiative. It is vital that we support and strengthen our allies and partners in the region in order to deter the growing threat from China.

This NDAA also funds critical investments here at home that will enable us

to confront the sophisticated threats we face from China and Russia.

The NDAA also includes provisions implementing a number of Cyber Solarium recommendations. These changes will continue to modernize our military and civilian cybersecurity efforts. I think that we have only begun our work in this area.

In addition to these cutting-edge needs, this conference report also reauthorizes the pay to troop deployed in combat zones.

Most importantly, this bill adheres to the budget agreement and fully funds the President's budget request.

Now more than ever, we must reject calls for blanket defense cuts from partisans who are using the current crisis as an opportunity to push their agenda.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague MAC THORNBERRY for his years of service and dedication to the Armed Services Committee. No one cares more about our men and women in uniform and has been a better leader for our conference. We are going to miss his passion and dedication for these issues, and we wish him and Sally nothing but the best as they go forward.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), a member of the committee.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. This NDAA will provide the tools and resources essential to maintaining our national security.

I am pleased that the conference report includes a 3 percent pay raise for our troops and invests robustly in initiatives to compete with China, Russia, and others who threaten our security around the world.

The conference report includes vital investments in our fleet, our readiness, and continued construction of the *Virginia*-class submarine and the modernization of our nuclear deterrence through the *Columbia*-class submarine.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to supporting the final passage of this bipartisan legislation and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY), the distinguished Chair of the Republican Conference.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this NDAA conference report named after a true American patriot, our Armed Services Committee Ranking Member MAC THORNBERRY, whom we will very much miss and who has dedicated his career to serving this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. SMITH, for his work on this bipartisan product.

Congress has no greater responsibility, Mr. Speaker, than providing for the defense of our Nation.

At a time when the United States faces the most complex array of

threats in our history, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our service-members have the tools they need to deter and defeat our adversaries.

The 2021 defense bill before us today makes critical progress towards modernizing our military, supporting our military families, protecting supply chains, and deterring Russia and China.

At this crucial moment when we have troops deployed overseas, including those from Wyoming's 153rd, 187th, and 243rd Air National Guard units, it is imperative that they have the full support of the United States Congress behind them as they execute their missions.

Failure to pass this act would force hundreds of thousands of our men and women in uniform and their families to endure cuts to their pay right before the holidays. Over 250,000 military families would lose their hazardous duty pay.

Given the sacrifices they make for all of us, our troops should never have their livelihoods threatened by political battles in Washington, D.C.

In addition to all that this NDAA does to support our troops, it also builds on the Trump administration's successful efforts to counter the Chinese Communist Party, including through provisions I authored that require publication of the names of Chinese Communist military companies operating in the United States.

It also includes my bipartisan provision seeking to reduce DOD's dependence on China for critical rare earth minerals. States like Wyoming are blessed with these resources, and we must rebuild our Nation's capacity to mine and process rare earths here at home.

This legislation funds the modernization of our nuclear triad and contains crucial provisions to strengthen our deterrence capability in the Indo-Pacific.

American security requires that we maintain a military that is second to none, that we arm our troops with the world's best equipment, and that we provide for their families. Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to defend our freedom. We owe them the tools to do their job.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this year's NDAA, and I urge all my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the distinguished chair of the Financial Services Committee.

I really want to thank her for her leadership. The Financial Services Committee provided a number of key pieces of legislation on this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the William "Mac" Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, for Fiscal Year 2021, for which I served as a conferee.

For several months, I have worked with my House and Senate counterparts to include 10 measures authored

by Democratic members of the Financial Services Committee within the NDAA. These bills would help to protect the U.S. financial system, provide more remedies to investors who were deceived by corporate wrongdoers, expand access to housing assistance for our veterans, and direct the incoming Biden administration to use its full authority to help relieve the student debt crisis.

For years, the issue of shell companies has been ignored by this Congress. This is why one of the first actions I took as chair of the committee was to move legislation to prevent bad actors from using shell companies to hide their activities, a provision I have been fighting for for over a decade, and I am very pleased it is included in the conference agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY from New York for her tireless work on this provision and the Members and the many outside stakeholders for their work on all the measures included in the legislation.

I am also pleased to see the conference report reflected my work and progress ensuring that technologies procured by the Department of Defense are ethically and responsibly screened for potential bias.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding time to me today and for his many years of service. America and the world are safer today because of MAC THORNBERRY's service in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SMITH, the chairman of the committee, as well, for ensuring that this year's NDAA is bipartisan once again.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise most of all in support of the aptly named MAC THORNBERRY National Defense Authorization Act.

While the bill doesn't include everything I want it to and there are certainly items that I wish would be removed, overall, it ensures that our Nation is protected, and it supports our men and women in uniform.

So many in the Trump administration have warned us for years that China is our Nation's long-term strategic competitor, and countering China is a key focus of the fiscal year 2021 NDAA.

Having just been a part of the Future of Defense Task Force and the China Task Force, I am more motivated than ever before to stop the Chinese Communist Party's egregious affronts on the U.S. Government, its citizens, and our military. I appreciate the inclusion of many important recommendations from both of those task force reports in this year's NDAA.

This NDAA establishes the Pacific Deterrence Initiative to strengthen U.S. posture and capability in the Indo-Pacific region, and it works better with

allies to deter against Chinese malign behavior.

□ 1330

It also protects against Chinese industrial espionage by requiring a Presidential assessment on how to deter it and large-scale cyber threat of intellectual property and personal information.

The NDAA also includes a number of protections for Federal investments in science and technology by including new mandates on university research and limiting funding for universities with Confucius Institutes, for example.

These are just some of the very important provisions in this year's bill, to not just acknowledge the China threat, Mr. Speaker, but to address it head-on. That is why I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both Mr. SMITH, the chairman of the committee, and Mr. THORNBERRY, who I have had the opportunity to work with through the years. Both of them are leaders who have focused on America's well-being, America's national security, and the well-being of our troops who serve in uniform and support those who are at the point of the spear.

I believe that we have and our country has been advantaged by the leadership of both and by the fact that they have been able to work together collegially to accomplish objectives on behalf of the country, not on behalf of party.

So, I thank both Mr. SMITH, the chairman, and Mr. THORNBERRY, the ranking member who was the chairman. They have both held the responsible positions of leading this committee and its work.

I rise in strong support of this year's authorization bill. Let me say at the outset, as the majority leader, I schedule legislation for the floor. Mr. SMITH and I have had long conversations, and Mr. THORNBERRY and I have had conversations in the past.

This bill should not be on the floor in December. This bill has historically passed in May through the committee and has been to the floor before we break for the August break. I have had discussions with Mr. SMITH and will tell successors on the Defense Committee that it will be my intention to urge the committee to mark up its bill and have it ready to report to the floor by May.

Now, there have been exigencies from time to time which made that impossible. That was certainly the case when the government was shut down, and it has been this case through the pandemic, which has obviously slowed up our work as well.

But I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that I will be able to bring this bill, at the

instance of the chairman and the ranking member, to the floor either in late May or very early June, the first week in June before, frankly, we get to the appropriations process, which is really how the process ought to work, as opposed to the other way around.

Mr. Speaker, this is a major piece of legislation, one of the most important we pass each year and one, frankly, that we need to pass each year.

I just said we need to do it in a timely fashion, but it is never too late to do the right thing. What we are doing today is the right thing, passing a bill which provides for the security of our country.

Again, I want to thank both of those leaders who I have referenced. This conference report will ensure that our men and women in uniform can continue to protect our Nation and meet global challenges.

Now, I hope that President Trump does sign this bill. He ought to sign this bill. This is about our national security. It is not about partisanship. Taking issue with one provision or another in such a large and important bill is no reason to block the whole of it. That is particularly true when this bill would take a major step forward to right a historic wrong.

But let me say, with respect to a veto, I hope the President does not veto this. I hope that we have, as previous speakers have said, overwhelming bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle.

Of course, there are specifics in a bill this large where one can say: "I don't like that provision." Well, I don't think there is a bill that you can't have a significant number or one of us say: "I wish that provision were different." But we ought not to have our focus on the doughnut hole. We ought to have our focus on the doughnut, on the whole of what makes this bill so critically important for our country.

In our founding document, it states that all are "created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

It said: "All men are created equal." None of us would argue that all men should be exclusively perceived as being created equal. We believe that all human beings are created equal, whether they are men or they are women, or they are Black or they are White, or they are yellow or they are red. Whatever the differences may be, it is our perception and articulation in this Declaration that it is God who created the soul that is colorless, that is genderless, that is of no one nation.

It is the soul that is imbued in us, as we say in our Declaration, by our creator. While these rights may have been self-evident, I tell people, they are not self-executing. It fell to future generations of Americans to secure them in practice.

Less than a century after our Nation's founding, it was torn apart by a

Civil War, with Southern States waging war to protect the evil institution of slavery. All of us would agree that one human being owning another human being is untenable. But it is what we fought a war over.

The names of those who fought violently to perpetuate slavery and who rebelled against the United States do not deserve the honor of being associated with the installations housing, training, and equipping those who serve today under our flag of freedom and democracy.

Now, without getting into that argument, it would have been perverse to drop an amendment adopted by 93 percent of the Senate, not because they voted on the individual amendment but because it was included in the bill and 93 percent of the Members of the United States Senate voted for it.

It simply says what is the right thing to do: remove a name from a base on which an African-American sailor, an African-American soldier, an African-American marine, an African-American coastguardsman serve. An African American of whatever service, at whatever time, should not have to serve on a base named for somebody who believed that person ought to be enslaved.

I congratulate both the chairman and the ranking member for making sure that that language was kept in. I know the President has said he doesn't like that language, but as I said, I am convinced that any one of us could point to something in this bill we don't like. But we need to keep our eye on the ball, the national security of our country.

This National Defense Authorization Act requires the military to remove the names. I think that is appropriate, and I congratulate them for leaving that language whole.

I had made it clear that I felt this bill needed to pass. But I felt that if that provision were left out, it would be inappropriate to put it on the floor.

Additionally, I also want to mention that this conference report will ensure that all Federal employees can access 12 weeks of paid parental leave. That is now the practice in most, if not all, certainly, but many of the largest corporations in our country. Why? Because they believe it is good for their employees. They believe it is good for their children. They believe it is good for America. We have now adopted that, and I praise the committee for doing so.

Unfortunately, some Federal employees were left out last year when we enacted paid parental leave, and we have now included them. Today, we are fixing that and making sure that it applies to all Federal workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that we are able to include language in the conference report that will close corporate loopholes, which were referred to by Ms. WATERS, the chair of the Financial Services Committee, eliminating loopholes which allowed

dark money to enter the U.S. financial system from Russia and other malign actors.

That beneficial ownership provision is a major win in the fight against foreign kleptocrats and oligarchs seeking to undermine America's security and fund those who wish to do us harm.

Congratulations to Mr. SMITH, congratulations to the ranking member, and congratulations to the committee for that.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity today to do right by our servicemembers and by the principles they uphold. Let us do so by passing this conference report and doing our part, as President Lincoln said, to bind up the Nation's wounds.

I urge all of my colleagues, not because they will come to the conclusion that this is a perfect bill—there are no perfect bills. But it is a bill essential for the defense of our values, our people, and our land. This bill needs to pass overwhelmingly.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank my good friend from Texas for his service to the Nation.

The United States has a special partnership with Israel. In the past 4 years, we have strengthened this relationship while taking steps toward peace in the Middle East under the Abraham Accords with Bahrain, Sudan, and the UAE. This has made Israel and the entire Middle East safer.

However, Israel still faces threats from malign actors like Iran that seek to sow chaos and spread terror. In fact, earlier today, Iranian President Rouhani directly threatened Israel by promising to support Syria's aggression in the Golan Heights.

I am pleased the final bill bolsters cooperation between our countries and fully funds the security assistance to Israel. It also improves the laws on the books so that we can quickly supply Israel with precision-guided missiles to defend themselves against malign actors in the region.

This bill also enhances cooperation between our two nations by establishing a defense acquisition advisory group.

As an NDAA conferee, I am proud this year's bill includes provisions that support Israel and deepen our partnership.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to honor my colleague, my friend, my fellow Texan, Congressman MAC THORNBERRY. His leadership on the House Armed Services Committee has made our country stronger.

I am proud to have served with him in the Congress where we have worked together on key national security issues, including the year's NDAA which bears his name.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call him my friend. He has brought dignity and bipartisanship to this Chamber.

For that, sir, we are forever grateful.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on an important aspect of this bill.

My Corporate Transparency Act is the most important anticorruption, anti-money laundering bill in 20 years. When a terrorist cell or a criminal organization wants to move or hide money, they usually do it right here in the United States with a shell company. So the same terrorist groups that want to attack the United States are using our own financial system to finance those attacks. It is appalling, and it has to stop.

My bill will end the abuse of anonymous shell companies in the United States by requiring companies to disclose their true beneficial owners to the Treasury Department at the time the company is formed.

I want to thank my negotiating partners, Chairman CRAPO, Ranking Member BROWN, Chairwoman WATERS, and Ranking Member MCHENRY, and I congratulate Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY for all of their hard work on this bill.

□ 1345

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), who is a distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to express my thanks to Mr. THORNBERRY, who is retiring, for his many years of service to our military and our country through his actions in this committee. He will certainly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, each year, Congress is tasked with one of its most important duties: reauthorizing the NDAA to ensure that our military has everything that they could possibly need to continue protecting this country.

This year, I am proud to have served as conferee for the financial services measures in the NDAA, which includes the most significant overhaul of our anti-money laundering laws in decades.

The bipartisan Anti-Money Laundering Act authorizes new resources for the Treasury Department to combat illicit finance and requires the Treasury to apply more rigor to its data collection. This will allow suspicious activity reports and currency transaction reports to be as useful as possible for law enforcement.

For too long, Congress and the private sector have had little to no insight into how the executive branch uses these reports, which has decreased accountability and prevents us from modernizing the reporting regime. That ends with this bill.

The conference report also contains the ILLICIT CASH Act, legislation that Congresswoman MALONEY and I have been working on for years. This provision will deliver a significant blow to human traffickers and drug cartels by eliminating shell corporations that, for decades, have been a critical vehicle for laundering money in the United States.

In the fight against shell companies, the Federal Government has continuously deputized financial institutions, threatening massive penalties unless they play the role of law enforcement, effectively forcing private industry to do the government's job.

This legislation puts an end to that practice by forcing Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to collect beneficial information with minimal effort or inconvenience to businesses.

I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for her tireless efforts and collaboration on several provisions that protect small businesses and streamline regulations for financial institutions. I also thank Ranking Member MCHENRY for fighting for additional protections and relief for small businesses in conference.

Mr. Speaker, with these provisions, America can better fight illicit and terrorism finance, which helps our brave men and women in uniform who risk their lives every day to protect our freedoms and keep us safe.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership. I also thank my fellow Texan, MAC THORNBERRY, for his service to the Nation as he continues his journey.

Let me say how important this legislation is as it relates to basic pay, incentive pay, and hazard pay for our military families, many of whom are in my congressional district; the work that has been done on the maternity uniform pilot program; and also the work on reinforcing NATO; the sexual assault prevention and response that is so important, particularly in our community in Texas, for the horrible acts at Fort Hood against Vanessa Guillen, causing her to lose her life along with many others. This is a legislation that focuses on the personnel and that focuses on the security of our Nation.

I am very grateful to Congressman BROWN for his leadership on joining with other Members to ensure with Chairman SMITH that we remove these Confederate names from the names of military bases that represent all people. I am very grateful that my language indicates that profound, dignified, qualified, and heroic African-American soldiers have the right to have their names listed on these particular bases.

I ask America to send in the names of your relatives. Call my office. Send it to the Armed Services Committee.

Let us have a base where soldiers go that reflects everyone. I am thankful that my language was put in to name bases after African-American soldiers and other diverse persons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of all the Jackson Lee Amendments made in order for consideration of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORBERRY and their staffs for working with me and my staff in consideration of several Jackson Lee Amendments.

I am particularly thankful to Chairman SMITH for taking up the challenge of removing the stain of confederate traitors being honored by the naming of bases and military installations in their name.

It has been too long that African Americans guarded their communities from the hidden racism that existed under the guise of the confederate flag and knowing through oral history the brutality of those who served voluntarily in the confederate army and whose names were on bases and military installations.

This bill is ushering in a new era where the names of confederates who served voluntarily to take up arms against the United States will have their names removed from places of honor such as military bases or installations and these individuals be placed in historical context where historians and scholars may study and understand their place in American history.

It is also time that African Americans and Native Americans be recognized for their contributions in defense of our nation.

The history of African Americans and Native Americans serving in the military date back to the colonial period of our nation to the present day.

In every war waged from the Battle of Lexington to the Battle for Fallujah, African Americans and Native Americans have honorably answered the call to duty, and served with great valor and distinction in America's armed forces.

At decisive moments in our nation's history, the United States military and its citizens warriors, were there and made the difference:

The Revolutionary War (1776–1783),  
The War of 1812 (1812–1814),  
The Mexican-American War (1836),  
The Civil War (1861–1865),  
The Spanish-American War (1898),  
World War I (1914–1918),  
World War II (1941–1945),  
The Korean War (1950–1953),  
The Vietnam War (1965–1975),  
The Gulf War (1991), and

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as conflicts in other theaters of war.

The military is there defending our nation when attacked by hostile nations or adversaries.

But it is also there when needed to respond to attack from natural elements like floods and Hurricanes like Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Katrina.

The military was there doing a job no other branch of our nation's government could do—in the face of overwhelming calamity when the lives of thousands of American citizens were on the line—they came.

Our thanks to the military for being always ready to answer the call of duty—whether that

call comes in the dead of night or the light of day—we know that we can count on you.

The names and faces of millions of African Americans who have served our nation in uniform may fade from memory, but this evening we have the opportunity to remember and see them in the faces of the young people who have answered the call to duty by becoming members of the armed forces.

I offered several amendments to H.R. 6395 to improve the bill.

I thank my colleagues: Representatives BENNIE THOMPSON, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, GREGORY MEEKS, A. DONALD MCEACHIN, MARC VEASEY, STANFORD BISHOP, ANDRE CARSON, and JAHANA HAYES for joining as cosponsors of this Amendment.

The fact that military bases have been named after Confederate military leaders or soldiers is hard to imagine given that they were fighting to end the United States.

The Confederacy was not something that should be held up for honor by the United States or our nation's military.

There is no shortage of honorable replacement candidates to receive the honor of having a military base, installation or facility named in their honor.

#### UNITED STATES ARMY

##### 1. Gen. Roscoe Robinson Jr.

General Robinson was a 1951 graduate of West Point who attended the service academy before the Army was desegregated. Robinson served in Korea and Vietnam, with valor decorations in both conflicts, and as a training officer as part of the U.S. military support mission in Liberia. He went on to become the first black commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, deputy chief of staff for operations in U.S. Army Europe, commander of U.S. Forces Japan, the U.S. representative on the NATO Military Committee, and the first black four-star general in the Army.

##### 2. William Harvey Carney

William Carney was the first African American recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, which he received for his actions on July 18, 1863 at Fort Wagner, SC while a member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War—the state's first all-black regiment.

The 54th Massachusetts was the subject of the film, "Glory," starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman.

##### 3. Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams was appointed to lead the African American Women's Army Corps unit designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, which became known as the "Six Triple Eight."

This unit was instrumental in establishing and maintaining morale because it assured that mail from the battlefield and the homefront flowed efficiently and timely.

##### 4. Lt. Col. Margaret E. Bailey

In 1964, Margaret E. Bailey, Army Nurse Corps, was the first nurse to be promoted to lieutenant colonel.

#### UNITED STATES NAVY

5. Dorie Miller Messman First Class and Admiral Michelle Howard.

Dorie Miller, Messman First Class was serving in a noncombat role in the Navy, Dorie Miller responded heroically when the battleship West Virginia was attacked at Pearl Harbor. He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the third highest honor awarded by the US Navy at the time.

##### 6. Admiral Michelle Howard

Admiral Michelle Howard is a four-star Admiral and one of the highest-ranking African American women ever to serve in any branch of the military. Admiral Howard is also the first African American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship, the USS *Rushmore*.

She is the Navy's second highest ranking officer and is currently serving as the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Africa, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

#### THE AIR FORCE

##### 7. Lt. Col Shawna Rochelle-Kimbrell

In 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Kimbrell became the first female African American fighter pilot in the Air Force history. Her flights in Northern Watch marked her as the first female pilot to fly combat missions for Misawa's 35th Fighter Wing, and the first African American woman to employ ordinance in combat. She has more than 1,110 hours in the F-16, including 176 hours of combat time.

##### 8. Colonel Ruth A. Lucas

Colonel Lucas was the first African American woman in the Air Force to be promoted to the rank of colonel. At the time of her retirement in 1970, she was the highest-ranking African American woman in the Air Force.

##### 9. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr

In 1959 General Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American Major General in the United States Air Force. In 1943, he organized and commanded the 332nd Fighter Group known as the Tuskegee Airmen. General Davis received many decorations during his career, including two Distinguished Service Medals and a Silver Star. On December 9, 1998, General Davis was awarded his fourth general's star by President Bill Clinton.

#### THE COAST GUARD

##### 10. Alex Haley

Chief Petty Officer Haley is best known for writing letters for his shipmates and his short stories and articles, which got him promoted to Chief Journalist of the Coast Guard in 1959. Haley ultimately received a number of military honors, including the American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and an honorary degree from the Coast Guard Academy. And most of you know him also as the author of "Roots."

##### 11. Bobby C. Wilks

In 1957, Captain Bobby Wilks became the first African American Coast Guard aviator. He later became the first African American to reach the rank of Captain and the first to command a Coast Guard air station. He accumulated over 6,000 flight hours in 18 different types of aircrafts.

Twenty-five percent of the today's military is comprised of persons of color, of which 17.8% are African American.

In 2017, blacks made up 17% of the DOD active-duty military—somewhat higher than their share of the U.S. population ages 18 to 44 (13%). Blacks have consistently been represented in greater shares among enlisted personnel (19% in 2015) than among the commissioned officers (9%).

#### NATIVE AMERICANS

The amendment I offered during House consideration of the NDAA was expanded to include Native Americans.

It is without doubt that the military has a storied history of Native American contributions to

the securing our nation since colonial times to the present.

One famous example of their contributions occurred during World War II when the U.S. military developed a specific policy to recruit and train Navajo speakers to become code talkers.

A code talker is the name given to 29 Navajo Natives who used their tribal language to send secret communications on the battlefield.

The Marines formed the Navajo Code Talkers, who created a code based on the complex, unwritten Navajo language.

The code primarily used word association by assigning a Navajo word to key phrases and military tactics.

This system enabled the Code Talkers to translate three lines of English in 20 seconds, not 30 minutes as was common with existing code-breaking machines.

The Code Talkers participated in every major Marine operation in the Pacific theater, giving the Marines a critical advantage throughout the war.

During the nearly month-long battle for Iwo Jima, for example, six Navajo Code Talker Marines successfully transmitted more than 800 messages without error.

Marine leadership noted after the battle that the Code Talkers were critical to the victory at Iwo Jima.

At the end of the war, the Navajo Code remained unbroken.

Our Native American brothers and sisters are more than worthy to be so honored by having their names considered for military bases and installations.

#### BOOGALOO AND PROUD BOYS

A Jackson Lee Amendment included in the House version of the NDAA directed the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress the extent, if any, of the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorist groups and organizations motivated by a belief system of white supremacy, such as the Boogaloo and Proud Boys extremists is reflected in the Conference bill.

The NDAA conference identified that the FBI is under statutory obligation, established by Section 5602 of the NDAA FY 2020 (Public Law 116–92), to complete a report that would better characterize the domestic terrorist threat by requiring the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), to produce a set of comprehensive reports over 5 years.

The report is to include: a strategic intelligence threat internal to the United States; metrics on the number and type of incidents, coupled with resulting investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and analytic products, copies of the execution of domestic terrorism investigations; detailed explanations of how the FBI, DHS and NCTC prioritize the domestic terrorism threats and incident; and descriptions regarding the type and regularity of training provided by the FBI, DHS, or NCTC to other Federal, State, and local law enforcement.

The conferees note that the report has not been delivered to the appropriate committees and they urge the FBI Director to deliver the report without delay.

The Jackson Lee Amendment to the NDAA FY 2021 sought the same information that is required under the NDAA FY 2020 because of the threat posed by accelerationists and militia extremists who comprise a range of violent

anti-government actors, movements, and organizations, some of which branch out of decades-old ideologies and others of which are relatively new has led to violent engagement of law enforcement.

My concern is that in the aftermath of a historic national election, the activity of violence influencers like Boogaloo Boys or Proud Boys will increase and lead to attacks becoming more frequent.

In 2018, we saw too many instances of violent extremists searching for opportunities to sow violence and disrupt democratic processes.

Boogaloo and Proud Boys are targeting constitutionally protected activity for cooption or to provide cover for attacks.

Jackson Lee Amendment 179 implements a recommendation made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to implement Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) standard across U.S.-based email providers to increase the security of email.

I thank my colleagues Congressmen LANGEVIN, GALLAGHER, KATKO, and JOYCE for joining this bipartisan amendment to the FY 2021 NDAA.

The security of email has grown in importance as it has become in many ways the primary way that businesses, consumers, government communicate.

The Senate bill also addressed this important issue and the language of the final Conference concurs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Conference for the NDAA FY 2021.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the chairman has no further speakers.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Correct.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would begin by expressing my gratitude and admiration for Chairman ADAM SMITH and our ability to work together over a number of years, as well as to the members on both sides of the Armed Services Committee and our colleagues in the Senate, Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED.

Like Chairman SMITH, I also want to pay particular attention, gratitude, and honors to our professional staff. They started this conference process in July, and they have been working all these months to make sure that every detail was as right as we could make it. I particularly want to thank Dan Sennott, who had the responsibility of answering my phone calls on nights and weekends and so forth. Our staff worked with the professionalism and patriotism that would make all Americans proud if they could see it.

I also appreciate the generous words of my colleagues and having my name attached to this bill. This bill is one of which I am very proud. It strengthens our country's security in many ways. But as grateful as I am, I do not lose sight of the fact that this bill is not—and this bill has never been in 60 years—about any of us. It is not about

us or our political agendas or our political grievances.

This bill is about the men and women who risk their lives to protect and defend us and our freedoms and their families. This bill is about American national security. We have been able to come together on those things for 60 years, whatever other differences we may have had.

Without this bill, both the troops and America's national security will be hurt. Now, Members need to understand that and accept responsibility for the consequences of their vote. That damage that would happen without this bill cannot be papered over with some executive order or any appropriation bill, and it won't or it can't be repaired by a new bill in a new Congress with a new administration.

I know we can always find an excuse to vote against a bill, especially an excuse about what is not in it. So I will admit right here that this bill does not fix healthcare. This bill does not fix immigration. It does not raise or lower taxes. And it does nothing regarding the legal liability of social media companies. All of those things need attention and some kind of action.

But our troops should not be punished because this bill does not fix everything that needs to be fixed or it doesn't have a provision exactly the way we would want it.

The main reason this bill has been signed into law every year for 59 straight years is because of its substance. But like the chairman, I just want to add a note about process.

This committee started collecting proposals in January in a database that would be ultimately included in this bill. It went through all the subcommittees, the full committee, a conference process, and hundreds of amendments have been considered one way or another.

Every step of the way, Members shape it. In fact, we could easily identify close to 200 Members of the House that have a provision that can be linked to them in one way or another that are in this bill, and I think that is unique, frankly, in Congress today. If the 6-decade legacy of having this bill signed into law ends with us after 59 years, then I am afraid that process of having hundreds of Members contribute would end as well.

A very strong vote will help prevent that. The stronger the vote, the smoother the process from here on out. A strong vote will show the troops that we support them. A strong vote will show the adversaries that we can stand together to support this Nation, and that is what this bill is really all about.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mostly, I would like to associate myself with Mr. THORNBERRY's remarks. I think that was the perfect statement

of why it is so important to vote for this bill and why every Member of this body should vote for this bill. It contains incredibly important provisions, and the excuses for not doing those provisions just don't hold up.

As Mr. THORNBERRY points out, every year near the end of the process, because we are the only bill that actually makes it through the process, people who have been working on issues for a long time are desperate to get them taken care of. We respect that, we honor that, and we are the last vehicle to find.

Many times we are able to help, but not always. That is not a reason to not do the bill because of all the other issues, as Mr. THORNBERRY laid out, that we have not addressed.

Then, as people want to find reasons to oppose the bill, they start saying things that aren't terribly accurate. I think Mr. GAETZ wins the award for that one this year in his remark on Afghanistan.

Our bill says that if the President wants to go below 2,000 troops in Afghanistan—he said he is going to go to 2,300. So this bill doesn't have anything to do with what President Trump said he is going to draw down in Afghanistan. If he wants to go below 2,000 or a future President wants to go below 2,000, then he has to file a report. It doesn't say that he can't do it. He has to file a report.

I actually agree with Mr. GAETZ on where we need to go in Afghanistan. And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to prohibit the next President, President Biden, from completely drawing down in Afghanistan. That is a policy debate he will have.

So anyone who comes to the floor and says they are voting against this bill because of that is really not telling the truth. That is not what this bill does.

I also want to mention the top line because that is a favorite argument on our side to not vote for the bill. I will let you in on a little secret: the defense policy bill does not control how much money we spend at the Pentagon.

I know that sounds a little odd, but it doesn't. The budget process does that. And when we don't have a budget process because of how much things have broken down, which has happened frequently, then the Appropriations Committee decides how much we spend. What we do is we decide how that gets spent and the oversight of it.

A few years ago, Mr. COURTNEY pushed us to do two submarines a year, a great provision that saved a lot of money. We can control that. But if you think the Pentagon should spend more than it is spending, or less, then your beef is on the appropriations side. We could take the tables out in terms of the amount of money that we have in this bill, and it wouldn't change the amount of money that is spent at the Pentagon.

So, again, if you have a reason to vote against the bill, that is great. But

the top line, Afghanistan, those are not valid reasons. This is an important piece of legislation that has been unduly complicated by the fact that, of all people, the President is one of the people this year who, near the end of the process, said: I want to fix that.

He wanted to fix something about section 230 having to do with social media platforms, and he went looking for the only possible vehicle. Let me just say to people on that issue, that section is not going to be addressed in this bill. You can not address section 230 and pass a defense bill; or you can not address section 230 and not pass a defense bill. There is no choice here where you can do both, Mr. Speaker.

So please make the right choice. Please recognize all of the incredibly important bicameral, bipartisan provisions that are contained in this bill. This is one thing in a very tumultuous time that we ought to be able to agree on. There are enough provisions and good policy in here for everyone in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by thanking everyone in this body. We have worked together in this process. I am now finishing up my 2 years as chairman. My caucus, in their infinite wisdom, has given me another 2 years to do the job, but these first 2 years I really enjoyed the process.

Members keep coming up to me and saying: You have a terrible job, it must be difficult, you have all these people making all these demands.

I love what I do. I am in a position with all the other team here to help people. We don't always succeed and we don't always get it done, but we have a chance. Every Member of the House and Senate, I think, have worked together, and we have produced an outstanding product. Let us reward ourselves for our work. Let us take care of the troops, as we are supposed to do, and pass this bill.

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

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. It is a fitting tribute to the years of dedication and work that Congressman THORNBERRY has done in this body and, in particular, on national security issues.

In particular, this legislation contains Section 3510 that addresses and corrects a regulatory mismatch of the manner in which a small passenger vessel that operates in Southeast Alaska is measured. Specifically, the *M/V Liseron* (United States official number 971339), a converted minesweeper that conducts overnight passenger cruises in the eco-tourism trade in Southeast Alaska, should be classified as having the same regulatory tonnage for licensing its crew as is used for its safety inspection category (i.e., 100 gross tons), and the other vessels in the same trade. For construction and safety, the vessel meets all Coast Guard standards. This section in essence aligns and makes licensing requirements consistent with all the other safety and inspection regulations that apply to the *M/V Liseron* as a small passenger vessel by deeming the *M/V Liseron* to

be less than 100 gross tons for the purposes of licensing and credentialing subject to some conditions.

Operationally, the *M/V Liseron* has ten staterooms and is limited to about 20 passengers. More critically, the vessel is currently inspected by the Coast Guard as a small passenger vessel in the 100 gross regulatory tonnage category. Notwithstanding that, the vessel has a larger tonnage entered on its certificate of inspection due to the arcane nature of the U.S. vessel admeasurement laws, rules that govern the volumetric size of vessels. Larger competitor vessels can be nearly 100 feet longer and carry 5 times the number of passengers, yet they are considered to be in the smaller 100 GT small passenger vessel category for both licensing and inspection purposes.

Needless to say, the *M/V Liseron* suffers from the inequitable situation as the vessel must compete with similar or larger vessels in the eco-tourism trade that carry five times the number of passengers. While the vessel is inspected and regulated for all safety purposes in a lower tonnage category (i.e., 100 GT), due to the higher tonnage rating entered on its certificate of inspection, the *M/V Liseron* must source crew from seafarers with deep water credentials (i.e., 500 GT) rather than for the shallower and protected waters of Southeast Alaska. The inequity is underscored by the fact that the *M/V Liseron* physically can fit within the volumetric profile of its competitors, yet the rules say it should be assigned a measurement of being larger. This is a classic example of the matryoshka principle. Further, the vessel carries far fewer passengers than its competitors.

This legislation prohibits the *M/V Liseron* from undergoing any alteration of its size. It also limits the operation while carrying passenger to inland waters of the United States so it will not go on deep sea oceangoing cruises. Further the section permits 100 GT licensed crew members operate the vessel while allowing the Coast Guard to add additional credentials in a justifiable case if the experience and training of the individual warrant it. This does not mean additional credentials must be required or are warranted in every instance. My understanding is that the Coast Guard already has authority to do this in existing regulation so no rulemaking is required that would delay the implementation of this provision. If the master and first mate can hold 100 GT licenses it should result in less turnover and more appropriately experienced personnel that will ultimately contribute to even safer and more consistent operation of the vessel. Only two positions are affected by this legislation.

During the cruising season in Southeast Alaska this vessel brings significant job opportunities and needed economic activity in local businesses by the company and its customers. The vessel enables tourists from around the world to come and enjoy the fishing and unparalleled scenic and natural beauty that Alaska has to offer. This year the vessel suffered the economic impact of the cancellations due to the COVID-19. As a result, the *M/V Liseron* has lost an entire season of revenue due to cancellations. Continuing an artificial barrier such as having to hire crew in a mismatched licensing category will only add to the vessel's difficulties to recover from this economic loss when they are able to resume operations.

In summary, I urge all of my colleagues to join me to enact this legislation. By adjusting the tonnage rating for licensing the *M/V Liseron's* crew to be consistent with its safety inspection category, the *M/V Liseron* would be able to hire and retain more appropriate experienced crew familiar with Southeast Alaskan waterways and small passenger vessel operations.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Report associated with H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), which supports our troops and includes critical provisions to remove Confederate symbols from our military. The legislation also ensures our country retains its leadership in artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and semiconductor manufacturing. I'm proud that the conferenced NDAA includes several provisions I authored or cosponsored.

The Global AI Index quantifies the AI arms race among nations, and it has found that the U.S. is ahead of China today but "experts predict China will overtake the U.S. in just five to 10 years." This is why it's so critical we continue to invest in AI, especially as it relates to national security.

The conferenced NDAA includes my bipartisan and bicameral legislation, H.R. 7096, the National AI Research Resource Task Force Act, which establishes a task force of experts from government, academia, and companies (large and small) to develop a roadmap for a national AI research cloud to make available high-powered computing, large data sets, and educational resources necessary for AI research. The national AI research cloud expands access so that American universities and companies can participate in AI R&D. My bill appears as Section 5106 of the conferenced NDAA.

My legislation is supported by Chairman Eric Schmidt and Vice Chairman Bob Work of the National Security Commission on AI; 12 leading public and private research universities, including Stanford, UC Berkeley, Princeton, UCLA, and Ohio State; research and tech nonprofits Mozilla, Open AI, and the Allen Institute for AI; standards body IEEE-USA; leading technology companies, including Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Oracle, and IBM; and startups, including Calypso AI and Scale AI. I thank Representatives ANTHONY GONZALEZ and MIKIE SHERRILL, and Senators PORTMAN and HEINRICH, for their partnership in advancing this highly important legislation.

I'm proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 6216, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act, comprehensive and bipartisan legislation which establishes an initiative to accelerate and coordinate investments and partnerships in AI research, standards, and education. This legislation appears as Division E of the conferenced NDAA, and it is a major investment in our country's future that will pay dividends for decades to come.

The conferenced NDAA also includes language based on two AI-related amendments I offered and the House adopted on July 20th. House NDAA floor Amendment No. 131 requires the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) of the DOD to report on its contribution to the development of AI standards in multi-stakeholder bodies. House NDAA floor Amendment No. 132 requires the JAIC to report on the assignments servicemembers re-

ceive after they complete their duty with the JAIC. Both were adopted as part of H. Amdt. 841 to H.R. 6395 and appear in Section 231 of the conferenced NDAA.

I also cosponsored key technology provisions of the conferenced NDAA. The CHIPS for America Act, introduced by Reps. MATSUI and MCCAUL, restores American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and appears as Title XCIX of the conferenced NDAA. I thank conferees for retaining a provision I authored to ensure that small businesses are given preference for grants authorized by the legislation (Section 9902(a)(2)(C)(ii)(IV)). A provision establishing the role of the National Cyber Director within the Executive Office of the President, based on the National Cyber Director Act, which I cosponsored, appears as Section 1752 of the conferenced NDAA. This legislation is critical to help coordinate cybersecurity at the highest levels of government.

I urge my colleagues to vote 'YES' on the Conference Report for H.R. 6395.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This legislation authorizes the funding for a national defense strategy that is built on Democratic principles and advances American values.

As Dean of the Texas Congressional Delegation, I would be remiss if I did not briefly take a moment to recognize and acknowledge Congressman MAC THORNBERRY—a longtime colleague of mine and the namesake for this bill—for his service to our country. I wish him and his family a fruitful retirement.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act reflects the priorities of the American people. As an appointee on the NDAA conference committee, I was proud to fight for the inclusion of key bipartisan provisions like a pay raise for our servicemembers, expanded paid parental leave for civilian DOD employees, and new investments to combat climate change in the final version of the bill.

The Congressional Black Caucus played a critical role in the shaping of this legislation. Among the several bold initiatives ushered through the House, Senate, and conference deliberations by the CBC is the establishment of a commission to rename military installations that honor Confederate officers. This proposal, paired with the required modification or removal of any symbols, monuments, and paraphernalia that commemorate the Confederacy, is a necessary step in achieving racial equity in the military.

Mr. Speaker, despite the President's veto threat, I look forward to the passage and enactment of this legislation.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

Combating illicit finance and targeting bad actors is a nonpartisan issue. However, Congress' actions must be thoughtful and data-driven.

An example of this is H.R. 2514, the COUNTER Act, which is included in this conference report. Division G is a compilation of bipartisan policies that will modernize and reform the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering regimes. These policies will strengthen the Department of Treasury's financial intelligence, anti-money laundering, and counter terrorism programs. I would like to thank Chairman CLEAVER and Ranking Mem-

ber STIVERS for their work on this bill and the language included in Division G.

In addition to Division G, the conference report contains an amendment replacing the text of H.R. 2513, the Corporate Transparency Act, with new legislation. H.R. 2513, which passed the House on October 22, 2019, and again as an amendment to H.R. 6395 on July 21, 2020, attempted to establish a new beneficial ownership information reporting regime to assist law enforcement in tracking down terrorists and other bad actors who finance terrorism and illicit activities. But, it did so to the detriment of America's small businesses.

Beneficial ownership information is the personally identifiable information (PII) on a company's beneficial owners. This information is currently collected and held by financial institutions prior to a company gaining access to our financial system.

However, bad actors and nation states, such as China and Russia, are becoming more proficient in using our financial system to support illicit activity. As bad actors become more sophisticated, so to must our tools to deter and catch them. One such tool is identifying the beneficial owners of shell companies, which are used as fronts to launder money and finance terrorism or other illicit activity. Beneficial ownership information assists law enforcement to better target these bad actors.

Although well-intentioned, H.R. 2513 had numerous deficiencies in its reporting regime. First, H.R. 2513 placed numerous reporting and costly reporting requirements on small businesses. It lacked protections to properly protect small businesses' personal information stored with a little-known government office within the Department of Treasury—known as FinCEN. The bill authorized access to this sensitive information without any limitation on who could access the information and when it could be accessed. Finally, it failed to hold FinCEN accountable for its actions.

The text of H.R. 2513 is replaced with new language that I negotiated, along with Senate Banking Committee Chairman CRAPO. This substitute, which is reflected in Division F of the conference report, is a significant improvement over the House-passed bill in three key areas.

First, Division F limits the burdens on small businesses. Unlike H.R. 2513, the language included in the conference report protects our nation's small businesses. It prevents duplicative, burdensome, and costly reporting requirements for beneficial ownership data from being imposed in two ways. It rescinds the current beneficial ownership reporting regime set out in 31 CFR 1010.230 (b)-(j), which is costly and burdensome to small businesses. Rescinding these provisions ensures that it cannot be used in a future rule to impose another duplicative, reporting regime on America's small businesses. In addition, Division F requires the Department of Treasury to minimize the burdens the new reporting regime will have on small businesses, including eliminating any duplicative requirements.

House Republicans ensured the directive to minimize burdens on small businesses is fulfilled. Division F directs the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Banking annually for the first three years after the new rule is promulgated. The report must assess: the effectiveness of the new rule; the steps the Department of Treasury

took to minimize the reporting burdens on reporting entities, including eliminating duplicative reporting requirements, and the accuracy of the new rule in targeting bad actors. The Department of Treasury is also required to identify the alternate procedures and standards that were considered and rejected in developing its new reporting regime. This report will help the Committees understand the effectiveness of the new rule in identifying and prosecuting bad actors. Moreover, it will give the Committees the data needed to understand whether the reporting threshold is sufficient or should be revised.

Second, Division F includes the strongest privacy and disclosure protections for America's small businesses as it relates to the collection, maintenance, and disclosure of beneficial ownership information. The new protections set out in Division F ensure that small business beneficial ownership information will be protected just like an individual's tax return information. The protections in Division F mirror or exceed the protections set out in 26 U.S.C. 6103, including:

1. Agency Head Certification. Division F requires an agency head or designee to certify that an investigation or law enforcement, national security or intelligence activity is authorized and necessitates access to the database. Designees may only be identified through a process that mirrors the process followed by the Department of Treasury for those designations set out in 26 U.S.C. 6103.

2. Semi-annual Certification of Protocols. Division F requires an Agency head to make a semi-annual certification to the Secretary of the Treasury that the protocols for accessing small business ownership data ensure maximum protection of this critically important information. This requirement is non-delegable.

3. Court authorization of State, Local and Tribal law enforcement requests. Division F requires state, local and tribal law enforcement officials to obtain a court authorization from the court system in the local jurisdiction. Obtaining a court authorization is the first of two steps state, local and tribal governments must take prior to accessing the database. Separately, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies must comply with the protocols and safeguards established by the Department of Treasury.

4. Limited Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership Information. Division F prohibits the Secretary of Treasury from disclosing the requested beneficial ownership information to anyone other than a law enforcement or national security official who is directly engaged in the investigation.

5. System of Records. Division F requires any requesting agency to establish and maintain a system of records to store beneficial ownership information provided directly by the Secretary of the Treasury.

6. Penalties for Unauthorized Disclosure. Division F prohibits unauthorized disclosures. Specifically, the agreement reiterates that a violation of appropriate protocols, including unauthorized disclosure or use, is subject to criminal and civil penalties (up to five years in prison and \$250,000 fine).

Third, Division F contains the necessary transparency, accountability and oversight provisions to ensure that the Department of Treasury promulgates and implements the new beneficial ownership reporting regime as intended by Congress. Specifically, Division F requires each requesting agency to establish and maintain a permanent, auditable system of records describing: each request, how the

information is used, and how the beneficial ownership information is secured. It requires requesting agencies to furnish a report to the Department of Treasury describing the procedures in place to ensure the confidentiality of the beneficial ownership information provided directly by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Separately, Division F requires two additional audits. First, it directs the Secretary of Treasury to conduct an annual audit to determine whether beneficial ownership information is being collected, stored and used as intended by Congress. Separately, Division F directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct an audit for five years to ensure that the Department of Treasury and requesting agencies are using the beneficial ownership information as set out in Division F. This is the same audit that GAO conducts as it relates to the Department of Treasury's collection, maintenance and protection of tax return information. This information will ensure that Congress has independent data on the efficacy of the reporting regime and whether confidentiality is being maintained.

Division F also requires the Department of Treasury to issue an annual report on the total number of court authorized requests received by the Secretary to access the database. The report must detail the total number of court authorized requests approved and rejected and a summary justifying the action. This report to Congress will ensure the Department of Treasury does not misuse its authority to either approve or reject court authorized requests.

Finally, Division F requires the Director of FinCEN, who is responsible for implementing this reporting regime, to testify annually for five years. This testimony is critical. For far too long FinCEN has evaded any type of congressional check on its activities. Yet, it has amassed a great deal of authority. Now, Congress will shine a light on its operations. It is my expectation that FinCEN will provide Congress with hard data on its effectiveness in targeting bad actors, including the effectiveness of this new authority to collect, maintain, and use beneficial ownership information.

One final comment about the importance of FinCEN's annual testimony. In the months leading up to the House's consideration of H.R. 2513 last October, I sought data from FinCEN and from the Treasury Department, along with the Department of Justice, to better understand the need for this legislation. No such data was forthcoming. Rather, FinCEN gave anecdotes of very scary stories to justify the need for a new reporting regime. It is my expectation that FinCEN will provide Congress with the necessary data to justify this new reporting regime and the burdens it is placing on legitimate companies.

I will conclude by thanking Chairwoman MALONEY for her work over the last twelve years on this issue and her willingness to work with me to strengthen this bill. I believe we have a better product.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference agreement.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act, includes my bills ensuring my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, and other insular areas are included in additional federal programs as well as improving career education for military spouses.

Businesses in the Marianas will have further access to federal Small Business Administra-

tion programs under the terms of my Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Development Act, included in the final version of the NDAA. My bill, H.R. 6021, makes the Marianas eligible for funding to establish a Small Business Development Center Lead Center. With additional funding, small businesses on Saipan, Tinian and Rota will have improved access to free or low-cost services such as incubator workspaces for entrepreneurs, business planning, operations, and other areas required for small business start-up, growth and success. It will, also, provide technical assistance from the Federal and State Technology program to Marianas small businesses interested in seed funding from the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

The NDAA also includes the two bills I authored to expand education opportunities in our islands. H.R. 6786 includes the Marianas in the Defense Department's STARBASE education program, which aims to improve students' skills in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math). STARBASE partners military installations with schools having high proportions of economically and educationally disadvantaged students.

Additionally included in the NDAA is my bill, H.R. 4614, adding the Marianas and other insular areas to the national AMBER alert system for finding missing children. AMBER alerts mobilize the community via radio, TV, and text messages and have helped locate almost one thousand children, since the system was created in 1996. My AMBER Alerts Nationwide Act will give law enforcement in the Marianas the financial and technical resources from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Transportation to implement AMBER alerts in our community, hopefully saving lives. My bill also seeks to close gaps in coverage nationwide by specifying airports, seaports, and border crossing areas.

And H.R. 7112, the Military Spouse Career Education Act, will help the spouses of service members finish their college degrees more quickly and get the training needed to re-license in their professions, when they must move to a new location under military orders. The spouses will be able to have the costs reimbursed for national tests like CLEP providing college credit and for required continuing education courses to maintain their career credentials.

I urge the adoption of the conference report, so we can be sure that military spouses have more support in starting and maintaining careers, more small businesses in our country can fully benefit from the SBDC and FAST programs, more students can benefit from STEM education, and more lives can be saved with the help of AMBER Alerts.

I thank Chairman SMITH, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Chairman NADLER, Chairman DEFAZIO, Senator HIRONO, Senator SCHATZ, and Representatives GABBARD, HOULAHAN, and BANKS for all their support to include into the NDAA these important measures.

I ask my colleagues to support adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked

tirelessly throughout this past year to get us to this point. It's a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support the conference report.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I worked closely with members on and off the committee to ensure the bill addressed key priority areas affecting our military.

First, the bill includes a number of bipartisan provisions aimed at addressing climate change. The bill does the following: requires an update to the Department of Defense Climate Change Roadmap; requires a report on the implementation of provisions from the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act related to installation master planning, updates to the Unified Facilities Criteria, sea-level rise modeling, and climate assessment tools; includes an alternative fuel vehicle pilot program to require the military departments to expand their use of alternative fuel non-tactical vehicles to increase the use of hybrid and EV vehicles; requires the Department to submit a report on its greenhouse gas emissions for the last 10 years within 180 days of enactment; requires the Department to invest in research and development of advanced water harvesting technologies that would aid in addressing water security issues in areas impacted by drought due to climate change; expands the Department's ability to use installation resilience authorities to support climate resiliency projects at National Guard Facilities owned by the State; and requires the military services to assess their water use at installations in regions experiencing water scarcity, maximize use of landscaping practices that reduce water usage, and improve their water conservation.

The bill also includes provisions that address energy resiliency for military bases, including the following: requires a report on efforts taken to ensure fuel consumption, distribution, and logistics are being considered across the Department and that steps are being taken to reduce consumption of fossil fuels by 30 percent in 25 years to reduce the number of resupply convoys and oilers required in a contested environment; requires the Department of Defense to institute energy metering on critical military facilities to assess the energy requirements and plan to ensure resilient power sources for these facilities; establishes a pilot program to develop microgrids on military installations that integrate emergency diesel generators to demonstrate how microgrid emergency diesel generator backup power could create efficiencies and resiliency while reducing costs and emissions; promotes the use of on-site energy production to promote military installation energy resiliency and energy security; requires an assessment of the Department's installation and operational energy usage; re-establishes the Operational Energy Capability Improvement Fund, which was eliminated in the budget request, and authorizes \$65 million to demonstrate and field technologies that reduce fuel consumption and logistics; establishes an Operational Energy budget line to enhance transparency and congressional oversight of the Department's efforts to reduce fossil fuel usage and make conservation gains on operational platforms; and requires the Comptroller General to assess the Department's progress towards meeting net zero goals for installations to include an assessment of the cultural and legislative barriers to meeting these goals.

The bill continues efforts to address contamination associated with per- and polyfluorinated compounds around military installations, including the following provisions: requires the Secretary of Defense to notify all agricultural operations in an area where covered PFAS has been detected in groundwater that is suspected to originate from use of firefighting foam on a military installation; requires the Department of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees when there has been an uncontrolled release of PFAS-containing firefighting agent; establishes a prize that can be awarded by the Secretary of Defense for innovative research that results in a viable replacement agent for firefighting foam that does not contain PFAS; requires the Department of Defense to survey and report on non-firefighting agent technologies, such as hangar flooring and firefighting equipment, that will help facilitate the phase-out of PFAS containing firefighting agents; makes technical corrections to the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act to ensure that all National Guard installations are eligible for funding under the Defense Environmental Restoration Account for PFAS remediation; establishes an interagency coordinating body for PFAS research; prohibits the Department of Defense from procuring certain items containing PFAS, including cookware, carpets, and upholstery with stain-resistant coatings; authorizes the Department to work with private entities to spur research, development and testing of PFAS-free fire-fighting agents; requires the National Institute of Standard and Technology to study the safety of firefighting equipment with respect to protecting fire fighters from PFAS, and conduct research on improving the safety of this equipment; authorizes \$90 million for research lines that support development of PFAS remediation and disposal technologies and firefighting agent replacement; and authorizes a total of \$1.4 billion for environmental remediation and BRAC accounts which support a range of remediation activities, to include those related to PFAS, at current military installations, formerly utilized defense sites, and installations closed by BRAC.

The bill also builds on the Committee's previous legislative and oversight activities to ensure that military personnel and their families live in quality housing and that the Department and private housing partners are responsive to resident concerns. The bill does the following: requires a report on the oversight of known environmental hazards in government owned family housing, including overseas housing; requires the Department of Defense to report on the feasibility of standardizing privatized housing performance metrics to better allow the Department to track trends across the housing enterprise; for future and renegotiated privatized housing agreements, requires that funding for housing maintenance and recapitalization be prioritized ahead of housing management and other fees in the payment structure; updates minimum health and safety standards for all military base housing, requires transparency for private housing company contract performance fees, and requires a report on the status of other military housing reforms; increases transparency by requiring DOD to notify Congress of large expenditures coming from the family housing reinvestment accounts; repeals the provision in Title 10 that allowed the Department of Defense to place families in substandard housing units; requires

the Secretary of Defense to implement Comptroller General recommendations for improvement of military family housing; and authorizes an additional \$60 million for oversight and improvement of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHP) program and to continue addressing environmental and maintenance issues in government-owned family housing.

Other important provisions that I am pleased are in the conference report include the following: establishes an independent commission to make binding recommendations to the Secretary of Defense for the modification or removal of all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America from all assets of the Department of Defense; amends the national emergency military construction authority (10 USC 2808) to set an annual limit of \$100 million for the domestic use of the authority and \$500 million for overseas projects, with an exception for medical projects that may be necessary to support response to a health emergency or pandemic; does not backfill military construction funds stolen for the border wall; makes technical corrections to the Paid Parental Leave benefit provided through the FY20 National Defense Authorization Act to ensure that Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and certain other civilian employees inadvertently omitted from the legislation receive the paid parental leave benefit; establishes the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation and codifies in law the Department of Defense entity that runs the Joint Land Use Study, DOD Schools, Defense Community Infrastructure Program, and Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program to ensure stability and effective community engagement; authorizes \$50 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and clarifies congressional intent with respect to the implementation of the program; provides long overdue benefits to Vietnam-Era Veterans, adding hypothyroidism, bladder cancer and Parkinsonism to the Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions List; and prohibits retirement of the RQ-4 or U-2 aircraft until specific certifications or waivers have been provided to Congress.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3 percent pay raise for our troops and includes several provisions that establish a National Maritime Logistics Fleet to bolster America's maritime sector. This is accomplished by strengthening US-flagged vessel requirements for the transportation of military cargo and fuels, creating a Tanker Security Program to address the shortfall in US-flagged, US-crewed tankers, and requiring the Navy to initiate an affordable, domestic built sealift ship. Strengthening our maritime logistics will bolster our nation's commercial shipping industry and enhance our military's capabilities by improving the overarching defense industrial base that supports each branch of our armed services.

I am also pleased with the inclusion of the remaining provision of my bill, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, to require DoD to integrate information from the Burn Pit Registry into servicemembers' Electronic Health Records to aid in the collection, documentation, and tracking of any exposures to Occupational Environmental Health (OEH) hazards. The legislative

intent of H.R. 2617 has been fully accomplished through the NDAA as last year's FY20 NDAA required DoD to input any OEH hazards exposure into servicemembers' records while deployed so it is tracked throughout their career and into veteran status.

Overall, I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and would like to thank the Readiness staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Jay Vallario, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Betsy Thompson, Marcus Jones, and Danusia Hubah, for their tireless work. Marcus and Danusia will be departing the Hill after next week, and I would like to personally thank them for their hard work and sharing their expertise with us this past year. Both Marcus and Danusia have been invaluable members of my staff and we will miss them dearly.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats. The conference report also authorizes funding that will strengthen DOD and the country's ability to respond to potential COVID-19 resurgence and other infectious diseases in the future. With that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY21 NDAA.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, section 6308 enhances U.S. law enforcement's ability to access international bank records to help better ensure financial crimes are investigated. I am supportive of this new and necessary provision. This new authority allows the Departments of Treasury and Justice to issue subpoenas requiring production of records relating to accounts held by banks outside of the United States. This new authority would create a secondary mechanism for seeking discovery from foreign banks separate from the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties ("MLATs") or other multilateral or bilateral agreements the United States currently maintains with many foreign governments for this purpose. As the Departments of Justice and Treasury implement Section 6308, I encourage them only to use this new authority where a foreign bank operates in a jurisdiction as to which no MLAT or other information-sharing agreement exists or where the relevant foreign government has not satisfied its obligations under an MLAT or other information-sharing agreement.

Many foreign countries restrict banks operating in their jurisdictions from sharing their customers' financial or personally identifiable information ("PII"). As a result, subpoenas issued under section 6308 may place foreign banks in the difficult position of either violating home country law or being in contempt for failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the United States government. As a result, I believe it is appropriate for the Departments of Justice and Treasury to take into consideration conflict of laws situations to achieve the purposes of Section 6308 while also maintaining a respect for home country requirements.

Finally, I encourage the Departments of Treasury and Justice to issue regulations establishing appropriate protocols to ensure that the authority granted under section 6308 does not supersede or supplant existing MLATs or other multilateral or bilateral agreements between the United States and the relevant foreign government that are available for obtaining records from a foreign bank.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report for H.R. 6395,

the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This bill contains many important provisions that should become law, but unfortunately those laudable policies are outweighed by the staggering cost and I cannot support the bill as a whole.

I am grateful for the Conferees' work to include language increasing treatment and benefits for veterans by expanding the types of diseases that are presumed connected with exposure to Agent Orange. I also strongly support the pay increase for our troops, the removal of names and symbols associated with the racist legacy of the Confederacy, and the bolstering of paid parental leave policies across the federal government. I commend Chairman SMITH for his ongoing work to advance legislation that improves the military's prevention of sexual assault and support for survivors, takes encouraging steps to address climate change, and prevents the misuse of taxpayer money on a wasteful border wall. In response to authoritarian tactics by federal agents in Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere, the Chairman and House Conferees also achieved bipartisan support for a policy I championed requiring that any federal forces responding to a protest or civil disturbance by clearly identifiable.

I cannot ignore, however, the unprecedented amount of military spending that this legislation would authorize. Amid a national crisis precipitated by a global pandemic, voting to allow billions of dollars to be spent on weapons is unjustifiable when our communities desperately need food and housing security, access to childcare, affordable health care, and small business support. We must not accept the notion that annual increases in defense spending are somehow inevitable and can be rationalized as modest when adding just one percent costs billions of dollars that should instead be invested domestically in schools or infrastructure.

I do not take this vote lightly and my commitment to providing for our servicemembers remains steadfast. It is a complex and challenging task to responsibly fund our national defense, but I am confident that we can maintain adequate security while reining in the immense and ever-increasing sums that endlessly pour into the military-industrial complex. I look forward to continued engagement with my colleagues as we address these difficult issues.

□ 1400

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

Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, December 3, 2020, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the adoption of the conference report.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. 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.

#### 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, December 8, 2020.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 8, 2020, at 11:44 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa S. Res. 795.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1503.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4761.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 5273.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). 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.

#### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1811) to make technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1811

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Water Resources Development Act of 2020".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. Secretary defined.

#### TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Budgetary treatment expansion and adjustment for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.  
Sec. 102. Authorization of appropriations for navigation.  
Sec. 103. Annual report to Congress on the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.  
Sec. 104. Additional measures at donor ports and energy transfer ports.  
Sec. 105. Construction of water resources development projects by non-Federal interests.

- Sec. 106. Coast Guard anchorages.
- Sec. 107. State contribution of funds for certain operation and maintenance costs.
- Sec. 108. Great Lakes confined disposal facilities.
- Sec. 109. Inland waterway projects.
- Sec. 110. Implementation of water resources principles and requirements.
- Sec. 111. Resiliency planning assistance.
- Sec. 112. Project consultation.
- Sec. 113. Review of resiliency assessments.
- Sec. 114. Small flood control projects.
- Sec. 115. Flood Protection Projects.
- Sec. 116. Feasibility studies; review of natural and nature-based features.
- Sec. 117. Federal interest determination.
- Sec. 118. Pilot programs on the formulation of Corps of Engineers projects in rural communities and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Sec. 119. Permanent measures to reduce emergency flood fighting needs for communities subject to repetitive flooding.
- Sec. 120. Emergency response to natural disasters.
- Sec. 121. Cost and benefit feasibility assessment.
- Sec. 122. Expediting repairs and recovery from flooding.
- Sec. 123. Review of Corps of Engineers assets.
- Sec. 124. Sense of Congress on multipurpose projects.
- Sec. 125. Beneficial use of dredged material; dredged material management plans.
- Sec. 126. Aquatic ecosystem restoration for anadromous fish.
- Sec. 127. Annual report to Congress on water resources infrastructure.
- Sec. 128. Harmful algal bloom demonstration program.
- Sec. 129. Missouri River interception-rearing complex construction.
- Sec. 130. Materials, services, and funds for repair, restoration, or rehabilitation of projects.
- Sec. 131. Levee safety.
- Sec. 132. National Dam Safety Program.
- Sec. 133. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed pump stations.
- Sec. 134. Non-Federal Project Implementation Pilot Program.
- Sec. 135. Cost sharing provisions for territories and Indian Tribes.
- Sec. 136. Review of contracting policies.
- Sec. 137. Criteria for funding environmental infrastructure projects.
- Sec. 138. Aging infrastructure.
- Sec. 139. Uniformity of notification systems.
- Sec. 140. Coastal storm damage reduction contracts.
- Sec. 141. Dam remediation for ecosystem restoration.
- Sec. 142. Levee accreditation process; levee certifications.
- Sec. 143. Project partnership agreement.
- Sec. 144. Acceptance of funds for harbor dredging.
- Sec. 145. Replacement capacity.
- Sec. 146. Reviewing hydropower at Corps of Engineers facilities.
- Sec. 147. Repair and restoration of embankments.
- Sec. 148. Coastal mapping.
- Sec. 149. Interim risk reduction measures.
- Sec. 150. Maintenance dredging permits.
- Sec. 151. High water-low water preparedness.
- Sec. 152. Treatment of certain benefits and costs.
- Sec. 153. Lease deviations.
- Sec. 154. Sense of Congress on Arctic deep draft port development.
- Sec. 155. Small water storage projects.
- Sec. 156. Planning Assistance to States.
- Sec. 157. Forecast-informed reservoir operations.
- Sec. 158. Data for water allocation, supply, and demand.
- Sec. 159. Inland waterways pilot program.
- Sec. 160. Definition of economically disadvantaged community.
- Sec. 161. Studies of water resources development projects by non-Federal interests.
- Sec. 162. Leveraging Federal infrastructure for increased water supply.
- Sec. 163. Sense of Congress on removal of unauthorized, manmade, flammable materials on Corps property.
- Sec. 164. Enhanced development program.
- Sec. 165. Continuing authority programs.
- TITLE II—STUDIES AND REPORTS
- Sec. 201. Authorization of proposed feasibility studies.
- Sec. 202. Expedited completions.
- Sec. 203. Expedited modifications of existing feasibility studies.
- Sec. 204. Assistance to non-Federal sponsors; feasibility analysis.
- Sec. 205. Selma, Alabama.
- Sec. 206. Report on Corps of Engineers facilities in Appalachia.
- Sec. 207. Additional studies under North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study.
- Sec. 208. South Atlantic coastal study.
- Sec. 209. Comprehensive study of the Sacramento River, Yolo Bypass, California.
- Sec. 210. Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule, Florida.
- Sec. 211. Great Lakes coastal resiliency study.
- Sec. 212. Report on the status of restoration in the Louisiana coastal area.
- Sec. 213. Lower Mississippi River comprehensive management study.
- Sec. 214. Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan.
- Sec. 215. Upper Missouri River Basin mainstem dam fish loss research.
- Sec. 216. Lower and Upper Missouri River Comprehensive Flood Protection.
- Sec. 217. Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River and Rye Harbor, New Hampshire.
- Sec. 218. Cougar and Detroit Dams, Willamette River Basin, Oregon.
- Sec. 219. Port Orford, Oregon.
- Sec. 220. Wilson Creek and Sloan Creek, Fairview, Texas.
- Sec. 221. Study on water supply and water conservation at water resources development projects.
- Sec. 222. Report to Congress on authorized studies and projects.
- Sec. 223. Completion of reports and materials.
- Sec. 224. Emergency flooding protection for lakes.
- Sec. 225. Report on debris removal.
- Sec. 226. Report on antecedent hydrologic conditions.
- Sec. 227. Subsurface drain systems research and development.
- Sec. 228. Report on corrosion prevention activities.
- Sec. 229. Annual reporting on dissemination of information.
- Sec. 230. Report on benefits calculation for flood control structures.
- TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS
- Sec. 301. Deauthorization of inactive projects.
- Sec. 302. Abandoned and inactive noncoal mine restoration.
- Sec. 303. Tribal partnership program.
- Sec. 304. Lakes program.
- Sec. 305. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed dams.
- Sec. 306. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program.
- Sec. 307. Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program.
- Sec. 308. Upper Mississippi River protection.
- Sec. 309. Theodore Ship Channel, Mobile, Alabama.
- Sec. 310. McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.
- Sec. 311. Ouachita and Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana.
- Sec. 312. Lake Isabella, California.
- Sec. 313. Lower San Joaquin River flood control project.
- Sec. 314. Sacramento River, Glenn-Colusa, California.
- Sec. 315. San Diego River and Mission Bay, San Diego County, California.
- Sec. 316. San Francisco, California, Waterfront Area.
- Sec. 317. Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, Sacramento River, California.
- Sec. 318. Rio Grande Environmental Management Program, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.
- Sec. 319. New London Harbor Waterfront Channel, Connecticut.
- Sec. 320. Wilmington Harbor, Delaware.
- Sec. 321. Wilmington Harbor South Disposal Area, Delaware.
- Sec. 322. Washington Harbor, District of Columbia.
- Sec. 323. Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation Water Conservation Plan, Florida.
- Sec. 324. Central Everglades, Florida.
- Sec. 325. Miami River, Florida.
- Sec. 326. Julian Keen, Jr. Lock and Dam, Moore Haven, Florida.
- Sec. 327. Taylor Creek Reservoir and Levee L-73 (Section 1), Upper St. Johns River Basin, Florida.
- Sec. 328. Extinguishment of flowage easements, Rough River Lake, Kentucky.
- Sec. 329. Calcasieu River and Pass, Louisiana.
- Sec. 330. Camden Harbor, Maine.
- Sec. 331. Cape Porpoise Harbor, Maine, anchorage area designation.
- Sec. 332. Baltimore, Maryland.
- Sec. 333. Thad Cochran Lock and Dam, Amory, Mississippi.
- Sec. 334. Missouri river reservoir sediment management.
- Sec. 335. Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- Sec. 336. Rahway flood risk management feasibility study, New Jersey.
- Sec. 337. San Juan-Chama project; Abiquiu Dam, New Mexico.
- Sec. 338. Flushing Bay and Creek Federal Navigation Channel, New York.
- Sec. 339. Rush River and Lower Branch Rush River, North Dakota.
- Sec. 340. Pawcatuck River, Little Narragansett Bay and Watch Hill Cove, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- Sec. 341. Harris County, Texas.
- Sec. 342. Cap Sante Waterway, Washington.
- Sec. 343. Local government reservoir permit review.
- Sec. 344. Project modifications for improvement of environment.
- Sec. 345. Aquatic ecosystem restoration.
- Sec. 346. Surplus water contracts and water storage agreements.
- Sec. 347. No wake zones in navigation channels.
- Sec. 348. Limitation on contract execution in the Arkansas River Basin.
- Sec. 349. Waiver of non-Federal share of damages related to certain contract claims.

- Sec. 350. Reduced pricing for certain water supply storage.
- Sec. 351. Flood control and other purposes.
- Sec. 352. Additional assistance for critical projects.
- Sec. 353. Project modification authorizations.
- Sec. 354. Completion of maintenance and repair activities.
- Sec. 355. Project reauthorizations.
- Sec. 356. Conveyances.
- Sec. 357. Lake Eufaula advisory committee.
- Sec. 358. Repeal of Missouri River Task Force, North Dakota.
- Sec. 359. Repeal of Missouri River Task Force, South Dakota.
- Sec. 360. Conforming amendments.

#### TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sec. 401. Project authorizations.
- Sec. 402. Special rules.
- Sec. 403. Authorization of projects based on feasibility studies prepared by non-Federal interests.

#### TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Update on Invasive Species Policy Guidance.
- Sec. 502. Aquatic invasive species research.
- Sec. 503. Terrestrial noxious weed control pilot program.
- Sec. 504. Invasive species risk assessment, prioritization, and management.
- Sec. 505. Invasive species mitigation and reduction.
- Sec. 506. Aquatic invasive species prevention.
- Sec. 507. Invasive species in alpine lakes pilot program.
- Sec. 508. Murder hornet eradication pilot program.
- Sec. 509. Asian carp prevention and control pilot program.
- Sec. 510. Invasive species in noncontiguous States and territories pilot program.
- Sec. 511. Soil moisture and snowpack monitoring.
- Sec. 512. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.
- Sec. 513. Determination of budgetary effects.

#### SEC. 2. SECRETARY DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

#### TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### SEC. 101. BUDGETARY TREATMENT EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT FOR THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14003 of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 14003. Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) HARBOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.—If, for any fiscal year, appropriations for the Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, and Operation and Maintenance accounts of the Corps of Engineers are enacted that are derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund established under section 9505(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that the Congress designates in statute as being for harbor operations and maintenance activities, then the adjustment for that fiscal year shall be the total of such appropriations that are derived from such Fund and designated as being for harbor operations and maintenance activities, but shall not exceed the sum of—

“(i) the amount deposited into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund in the fiscal year that is two years prior to the fiscal year for which the adjustment is being made; and

“(ii) \$2,000,000,000.

“(I) CERTAIN HARBOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.—If, for any of fiscal years 2021 through 2030, appropriations for the Operation and Maintenance account of the Corps of Engineers are enacted that the Congress designates in statute as being to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c), then the adjustment for that fiscal year shall be the total of such appropriations for that fiscal year designated as being to carry out such subsection, but shall not exceed—

- “(i) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;
- “(ii) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;
- “(iii) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
- “(iv) \$58,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
- “(v) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- “(vi) \$62,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
- “(vii) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- “(viii) \$66,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
- “(ix) \$68,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
- “(x) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

##### SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NAVIGATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (c) of section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238), for each fiscal year, of the funds made available under such section (including funds appropriated from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund), the Secretary is authorized to make expenditures to pay for operation and maintenance costs of the harbors and inland harbors referred to in subsection (a)(2) of such section, to the extent there are identifiable operations and maintenance needs, of—

(A) not less than 15 percent of such funds for emerging harbor projects, including eligible breakwater and jetty needs at such harbor projects;

(B) not less than 13 percent of such funds for projects that are located within the Great Lakes Navigation System;

(C) 12 percent of such funds for expanded uses carried out at donor ports and energy transfer ports, of which—

(i) ½ shall be provided to energy transfer ports; and

(ii) ¾ shall be provided to donor ports;

(D) not less than 17 percent of such funds for projects that are assigned to commercial strategic seaports; and

(E) any remaining funds for operation and maintenance costs of any harbor or inland harbor referred to in such subsection (a)(2) based on an equitable allocation of such funds among such harbors and inland harbors, in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of such section 210.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COMMERCIAL STRATEGIC SEAPORT.—The term “commercial strategic seaport” means a commercial harbor supporting the coordination of efficient port operations during peacetime and national defense emergencies that is designated as strategic through the National Port Readiness Network.

(B) DONOR PORT; ENERGY TRANSFER PORT.—The terms “donor port” and “energy transfer port” have the meanings given those terms in section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c).

(C) EMERGING HARBOR PROJECT; GREAT LAKES NAVIGATION SYSTEM.—The terms “emerging harbor project” and “Great Lakes Navigation System” have the meanings given those terms in section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238).

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2022.

(b) ADDITIONAL USES.—

(1) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HARBOR PROJECTS.—Section 210(c)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(c)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(A) ALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL USES AT EMERGING HARBORS.—

“(i) USES.—In each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than \$5,000,000 of funds allocated for emerging harbor projects under paragraph (1) to pay for the costs of up to 10 projects for maintenance dredging of a marina or berthing area, in an emerging harbor, that includes an area that is located adjacent to, or is accessible by, a Federal navigation project, subject to clauses (i) and (iii) of this subparagraph.

“(ii) ELIGIBLE EMERGING HARBORS.—The Secretary may use funds as authorized under clause (i) at an emerging harbor that—

“(I) supports commercial activities, including commercial fishing operations, commercial fish processing operations, recreational and sport fishing, and commercial boat yards; or

“(II) supports activities of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

“(iii) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall require a non-Federal interest to contribute not less than 25 percent of the costs for maintenance dredging of that portion of a maintenance dredging project described in clause (i) that is located outside of the Federal navigation project, which may be provided as an in-kind contribution, including through the use of dredge equipment owned by non-Federal interest to carry out such activities.”.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF HARBORS AND INLAND HARBORS.—Section 210(e)(2)(A)(ii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(e)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “uses described in subsection (c)(3)(B) and” after “costs for”.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 210(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (6);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively;

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) EMERGING HARBOR.—The term ‘emerging harbor’ means a harbor or inland harbor referred to in subsection (a)(2) that transits less than 1,000,000 tons of cargo annually.

“(3) EMERGING HARBOR PROJECT.—The term ‘emerging harbor project’ means a project that is assigned to an emerging harbor.”;

and

(D) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) An in-water improvement, if the improvement—

“(i) is for the seismic reinforcement of a wharf or other berthing structure, or the repair or replacement of a deteriorating wharf or other berthing structure, at a port facility;

“(ii) benefits commercial navigation at the harbor; and

“(iii) is located in, or adjacent to, a berth that is accessible to a Federal navigation project.

“(D) An activity to maintain slope stability at a berth in a harbor that is accessible to a Federal navigation project if such activity benefits commercial navigation at the harbor.”.

**SEC. 103. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND.**

Section 330 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (26 U.S.C. 9505 note; 106 Stat. 4851) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “and annually thereafter,” and inserting “and annually thereafter concurrent with the submission of the President’s annual budget request to Congress,”; and

(B) by striking “Public Works and Transportation” and inserting “Transportation and Infrastructure”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) A description of the expected expenditures from the trust fund to meet the needs of navigation for the fiscal year of the budget request.”.

**SEC. 104. ADDITIONAL MEASURES AT DONOR PORTS AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORTS.**

(a) INTERIM AUTHORIZATION.—Section 2106(f) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2020” and inserting “2022”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3).

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2106(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(i) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) at which the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes collected (including the estimated taxes related to domestic cargo and cruise passengers) comprise not less than \$15,000,000 annually of the total funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund on an average annual basis for the previous 3 fiscal years;”;

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) by inserting “(including the estimated taxes related to domestic cargo and cruise passengers)” after “taxes collected”; and

(II) by striking “5 fiscal years” and inserting “3 fiscal years”; and

(iii) in clause (iv), by striking “in fiscal year 2012” and inserting “on an average annual basis for the previous 3 fiscal years”;

(B) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “in fiscal year 2012” each place it appears and inserting “on an average annual basis for the previous 3 fiscal years”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9) and inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND.—The term ‘Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund’ means the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund established by section 9505 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”; and

(D) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated—

(i) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) at which the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes collected (including the estimated taxes related to domestic cargo and cruise passengers) comprise annually more than \$5,000,000 but less than \$15,000,000 of the total funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund on an average annual basis for the previous 3 fiscal years;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “(including the estimated taxes related to domestic cargo and cruise passengers)” after “taxes collected”; and

(II) by striking “5 fiscal years” and inserting “3 fiscal years”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “in fiscal year 2012” and inserting “on an average annual basis for the previous 3 fiscal years”.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

“(B) \$58,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

“(C) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

“(D) \$62,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(E) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(F) \$66,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

“(G) \$68,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

“(H) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2022.

**SEC. 105. CONSTRUCTION OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**

(a) STUDIES AND ENGINEERING.—Section 204(c)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(c)(1)) is amended by striking “under subsection (b)” and inserting “under this section”.

(b) ASSUMPTION OF MAINTENANCE OF A LOCALLY PREFERRED PLAN.—Section 204(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—

“(1) ASSUMPTION OF MAINTENANCE.—Whenever a non-Federal interest carries out improvements to a federally authorized harbor or inland harbor, the Secretary shall be responsible for operation and maintenance in accordance with section 101(b) if—

“(A) before construction of the improvements—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the improvements are feasible and consistent with the purposes of this title; and

“(ii) the Secretary and the non-Federal interest execute a written agreement relating to operation and maintenance of the improvements;

“(B) the Secretary certifies that the project or separable element of the project is constructed in accordance with applicable permits and appropriate engineering and design standards; and

“(C) the Secretary does not find that the project or separable element is no longer feasible.

“(2) FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE COSTS OF A LOCALLY PREFERRED PLAN.—In the case of improvements determined by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)(i) to deviate from the national economic development plan, the Secretary shall be responsible for all operation and maintenance costs of such improvements, as described in section 101(b), including costs in excess of the costs of the national economic development plan, if the Secretary determines that the improvements satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1).”.

(c) REPORT.—A non-Federal interest may submit to the Secretary a report on improvements to a federally authorized harbor or inland harbor to be carried out by the non-Federal interest, containing any information necessary for the Secretary determine whether the improvements satisfy the requirements of section 204(f)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232), including—

(1) the economic justification for the improvements;

(2) details of the project improvement plan and design;

(3) proposed arrangements for the work to be performed; and

(4) documents relating to any applicable permits required for the project improvements.

(d) PROJECT STUDIES SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall not be required to subject a project study for a project with a cost of less than \$200,000,000, which the Secretary determines satisfies the requirements of section 204(f)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232), to independent peer review under section 2034(a)(3)(A)(i) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2343(a)(3)(A)(i)).

**SEC. 106. COAST GUARD ANCHORAGES.**

The Secretary may perform dredging at Federal expense within and adjacent to anchorages established by the Coast Guard pursuant to existing authorities.

**SEC. 107. STATE CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**

In carrying out eligible operations and maintenance activities within the Great Lakes Navigation System pursuant to section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238) in a State that has implemented any additional State limitation on the disposal of dredged material in the open waters of such State, the Secretary may, pursuant to section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (33 U.S.C. 701h), receive from such State, and expend, such funds as may be contributed by the State to cover the additional costs for operations and maintenance activities for a harbor or inland harbor within such State that result from such limitation.

**SEC. 108. GREAT LAKES CONFINED DISPOSAL FACILITIES.**

(a) MITIGATION.—The Secretary may relocate access to the Port of Cleveland confined disposal facility, owned or operated by a non-Federal interest, in which material dredged by the Corps of Engineers is placed.

(b) COST-SHARE.—The cost to relocate access to the confined disposal facility described in subsection (a) shall be shared in accordance with the cost share applicable to operation and maintenance of the Federal navigation project from which material placed in the confined disposal facility is dredged.

(c) TERMINATION.—The authority provided under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2024.

**SEC. 109. INLAND WATERWAY PROJECTS.**

Notwithstanding section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2212), for a project for navigation on the inland waterways receiving a construction appropriation during any of fiscal years 2021 through 2031, 35 percent of the costs of construction of the project shall be paid from amounts appropriated from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund until such construction of the project is complete.

**SEC. 110. IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final agency-specific procedures necessary to implement the principles and requirements and the interagency guidelines.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—The procedures required by subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary, in the formulation of future water resources development projects—

(1) develops such projects in accordance with—

(A) the guiding principles established by the principles and requirements; and

(B) the national water resources planning policy established by section 2031(a) of the

Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 1962-3(a)); and

(2) fully identifies and analyzes national economic development benefits, regional economic development benefits, environmental quality benefits, and other societal effects.

(c) REVIEW AND UPDATE.—Every 5 years, the Secretary shall review and, where appropriate, revise the procedures required by subsection (a).

(d) PUBLIC REVIEW, NOTICE, AND COMMENT.—In issuing, reviewing, and revising the procedures required by this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide notice to interested non-Federal stakeholders of the Secretary's intent to revise the procedures;

(2) provide opportunities for interested non-Federal stakeholders to engage with, and provide input and recommendations to, the Secretary on the revision of the procedures; and

(3) solicit and consider public and expert comments.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INTERAGENCY GUIDELINES.—The term “interagency guidelines” means the interagency guidelines contained in the document finalized by the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 1962-3) in December 2014, to implement the principles and requirements.

(2) PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS.—The term “principles and requirements” means the principles and requirements contained in the document prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 1962-3), entitled “Principles and Requirements for Federal Investments in Water Resources”, and dated March 2013.

#### SEC. 111. RESILIENCY PLANNING ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 206(a) of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 709a(a)) is amended by inserting “, to avoid repetitive flooding impacts, to anticipate, prepare, and adapt to changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events, and to withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruption due to the flood hazards” after “in planning to ameliorate the flood hazard”.

(b) PRIORITIZING FLOOD RISK RESILIENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 709a), the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of technical assistance to support flood risk resiliency planning efforts of economically disadvantaged communities or communities subject to repetitive flooding.

#### SEC. 112. PROJECT CONSULTATION.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the following reports:

(1) The report required under section 1214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3809).

(2) The report required under section 1120(a)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1643).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the formulation of water development resources projects, the Secretary shall comply with any existing Executive order regarding environmental justice in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act to address any disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority communities, low-income communities, and Indian Tribes.

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review, and shall update, where appropriate, any policies, regulations, and

guidance of the Corps of Engineers necessary to implement any Executive order described in paragraph (1) with respect to water resources development projects.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In updating the policies, regulations, or guidance under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide notice to interested non-Federal stakeholders, including representatives of minority communities, low-income communities, and Indian Tribes;

(B) provide opportunities for interested stakeholders to comment on potential updates of policies, regulations, or guidance;

(C) consider the recommendations from the reports submitted under subsection (a); and

(D) promote the meaningful involvement of minority communities, low-income communities, and Indian Tribes.

(c) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.—In carrying out a water resources development project, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable—

(1) promote the meaningful involvement of minority communities, low-income communities, and Indian Tribes;

(2) provide guidance and technical assistance to such communities or Tribes to increase understanding of the project development and implementation activities, regulations, and policies of the Corps of Engineers; and

(3) cooperate with State, Tribal, and local governments with respect to activities carried out pursuant to this subsection.

(d) TRIBAL LANDS AND CONSULTATION.—In carrying out water resources development projects, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable and in accordance with the Tribal Consultation Policy affirmed and formalized by the Secretary on November 1, 2012 (or a successor policy)—

(1) promote meaningful involvement with Indian Tribes specifically on any Tribal lands near or adjacent to any water resources development projects, for purposes of identifying lands of ancestral, cultural, or religious importance;

(2) consult with Indian Tribes specifically on any Tribal areas near or adjacent to any water resources development projects, for purposes of identifying lands, waters, and other resources critical to the livelihood of the Indian Tribes; and

(3) cooperate with Indian Tribes to avoid, or otherwise find alternate solutions with respect to, such areas.

#### SEC. 113. REVIEW OF RESILIENCY ASSESSMENTS.

(a) RESILIENCY ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and in conjunction with the development of procedures under section 110 of this Act, the Secretary is directed to review, and where appropriate, revise the existing planning guidance documents and regulations of the Corps of Engineers on the assessment of the effects of sea level rise or inland flooding on future water resources development projects to ensure that such guidance documents and regulations are based on the best available, peer-reviewed science and data on the current and future effects of sea level rise or inland flooding on relevant communities.

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) coordinate the review with the Engineer Research and Development Center, other Federal and State agencies, and other relevant entities; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, utilize data provided to the Secretary by such agencies.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS FROM ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE AND INLAND FLOODING RESILIENCY IN FEASIBILITY REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of a non-Federal interest, in carrying out a feasibility

study for a project for flood risk mitigation, hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, or ecosystem restoration under section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282), the Secretary shall consider whether the need for the project is predicated upon or exacerbated by conditions related to sea level rise or inland flooding.

(2) ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE AND INLAND FLOODING RESILIENCY BENEFITS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out a study pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall document the potential effects of sea level rise or inland flooding on the project, and the expected benefits of the project relating to sea level rise or inland flooding, during the 50-year period after the date of completion of the project.

#### SEC. 114. SMALL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS.

Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s) is amended by inserting “, and projects that use natural features or nature-based features (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a))),” after “nonstructural projects”.

#### SEC. 115. FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS.

(a) GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 73(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 701b-11(a)) is amended by striking “including” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “, with a view toward formulating the most economically, socially, and environmentally acceptable means of reducing or preventing flood damage, including—

“(1) floodproofing of structures, including through elevation;

“(2) floodplain regulation;

“(3) acquisition of floodplain land for recreational, fish and wildlife, and other public purposes;

“(4) relocation; and

“(5) the use of a feature described in section 1184(a) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “NONSTRUCTURAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS” and inserting “PROJECTS USING NONSTRUCTURAL, NATURAL, OR NATURE-BASED FEATURES”; and

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “nonstructural flood control measures” and inserting “a flood risk management or hurricane and storm damage risk reduction measure using a nonstructural feature, or a natural feature or nature-based feature (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a))),”; and

(B) by striking “cash during construction of the project” and inserting “cash during construction for a nonstructural feature if the costs of land, easements, rights-of-way, dredged material disposal areas, and relocations for such feature are estimated to exceed 35 percent”.

#### SEC. 116. FEASIBILITY STUDIES; REVIEW OF NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES.

(a) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 1149(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2282 note; 132 Stat. 3787) is amended by striking “natural infrastructure alternatives” and inserting “natural feature or nature-based feature alternatives (as such terms are defined in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a))”.

(b) SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall include in each feasibility report developed

under section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282) for a project that contains a flood risk management or hurricane and storm damage risk reduction element, a summary of the natural feature or nature-based feature alternatives, along with their long-term costs and benefits, that were evaluated in the development of the feasibility report, and, if such alternatives were not included in the recommended plan, an explanation of why such alternatives were not included in the recommended plan.

**SEC. 117. FEDERAL INTEREST DETERMINATION.**

Section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282) is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) FEDERAL INTEREST DETERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—In preparing a feasibility report under subsection (a) for a study that will benefit an economically disadvantaged community, upon request by the non-Federal interest for the study, the Secretary shall first determine the Federal interest in carrying out the study and the projects that may be proposed in the study.

“(B) OTHER COMMUNITIES.—

“(i) AUTHORIZATION.—In preparing a feasibility report under subsection (a) for a study that will benefit a covered community, upon request by the non-Federal interest for the study, the Secretary may, with respect to not more than 3 studies in each fiscal year, first determine the Federal interest in carrying out the study and the projects that may be proposed in the study.

“(ii) COVERED COMMUNITIES.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘covered community’ means a community that—

“(I) is not an economically disadvantaged community; and

“(II) the Secretary finds has a compelling need for the Secretary to make a determination under clause (i).

“(2) COST SHARE.—The costs of a determination under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be at Federal expense; and

“(B) shall not exceed \$200,000.

“(3) DEADLINE.—A determination under paragraph (1) shall be completed by not later than 120 days after the date on which funds are made available to the Secretary to carry out the determination.

“(4) TREATMENT.—

“(A) TIMING.—The period during which a determination is being completed under paragraph (1) for a study shall not be included for purposes of the deadline to complete a final feasibility report under section 1001(a)(1) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c(a)(1)).

“(B) COST.—The cost of a determination under paragraph (1) shall not be included for purposes of the maximum Federal cost under section 1001(a)(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c(a)(2)).

“(5) REPORT TO NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—If, based on a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that a study or project is not in the Federal interest because the project will not result, or is unlikely to result, in a recommended plan that will produce national economic development benefits greater than cost, but may result in a technically sound and environmentally acceptable plan that is otherwise consistent with section 904 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2281), the Secretary shall issue a report to the non-Federal interest with recommendations on how the non-Federal interest might modify the proposal such that the project could be in the Federal interest and feasible.”.

**SEC. 118. PILOT PROGRAMS ON THE FORMULATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement pilot programs, in accordance with this section, to evaluate opportunities to address the flood risk management and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction needs of rural communities and economically disadvantaged communities.

(b) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY FLOOD PROTECTION AND HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDY PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and implement a pilot program to carry out feasibility studies, in accordance with this subsection, for flood risk management and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects for economically disadvantaged communities, in coordination with non-Federal interests.

(2) PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROGRAM.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) publish a notice in the Federal Register that requests from non-Federal interests proposals for the potential feasibility study of a flood risk management project or hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project for an economically disadvantaged community;

(B) upon request of a non-Federal interest for such a project, provide technical assistance to such non-Federal interest in the formulation of a proposal for a potential feasibility study to be submitted to the Secretary under the pilot program; and

(C) review such proposals and select 10 feasibility studies for such projects to be carried out by the Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal interest, under this pilot program.

(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting a feasibility study under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the percentage of people living in poverty in the county or counties (or county-equivalent entity or entities) in which the project is located is greater than the percentage of people living in poverty in the State, based on census bureau data;

(B) the percentage of families with income above the poverty threshold but below the average household income in the county or counties (or county-equivalent entity or entities) in which the project is located is greater than such percentage for the State, based on census bureau data;

(C) the percentage of the population that identifies as belonging to a minority or indigenous group in the county or counties (or county-equivalent entity or entities) in which the project is located is greater than the average such percentage in the State, based on census bureau data; and

(D) the project is addressing flooding or hurricane or storm damage effects that have a disproportionate impact on a rural community, a minority community, or an Indian Tribe.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 105(a)(1)(A) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215), the Federal share of the cost of a feasibility study carried out under the pilot program shall be 100 percent.

(5) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—Feasibility studies carried out under this subsection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate natural features or nature-based features (as such terms are defined in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a)), or a combination of such features and nonstructural fea-

tures, that avoid or reduce at least 50 percent of flood or storm damages in one or more of the alternatives included in the final alternatives evaluated.

(6) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of the selection of each feasibility study under the pilot program.

(7) COMPLETION.—Upon completion of a feasibility report for a feasibility study selected to be carried out under this subsection, the Secretary shall transmit the report to Congress for authorization, and shall include the report in the next annual report submitted under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d).

(c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF FLOOD PROTECTION AND HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and implement a pilot program to evaluate, and make recommendations to Congress on, flood risk management projects and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects in rural communities or economically disadvantaged communities, without demonstrating that each project is justified solely by national economic development benefits.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may make a recommendation to Congress on up to 10 projects, without demonstrating that the project is justified solely by national economic development benefits, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the community to be served by the project is an economically disadvantaged community or a rural community;

(B) the long-term life safety, economic viability, and environmental sustainability of the community would be threatened without the project; and

(C) the project is consistent with the requirements of section 1 of the Flood Control Act of 1936 (33 U.S.C. 701a).

(3) CONSISTENCY.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that project recommendations are consistent with the principles and requirements and the interagency guidelines, as such terms are defined in section 110 of this Act, including the consideration of quantifiable monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the project.

(4) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary may give equivalent budgetary consideration and priority to projects recommended under this subsection.

(d) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In selecting feasibility studies under subsection (b)(2)(C) or in making project recommendations under subsection (c), the Secretary shall consider the geographic diversity among proposed projects.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years and 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and make publicly available, a report detailing the results of the pilot programs carried out under this section, including—

(1) a description of proposals received from non-Federal interests pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(A);

(2) a description of technical assistance provided to non-Federal interests under subsection (b)(2)(B);

(3) a description of proposals selected under subsection (b)(2)(C) and criteria used to select such proposals;

(4) a description of the projects evaluated or recommended by the Secretary under subsection (c);

(5) a description of the quantifiable monetary and nonmonetary benefits associated with the projects recommended under subsection (c); and

(6) any recommendations to Congress on how the Secretary can address the flood risk management and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction needs of economically disadvantaged communities.

(f) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each of the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States.

(g) SUNSET.—The authority to commence a feasibility study under subsection (b), and the authority make a recommendation under subsection (c), shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 119. PERMANENT MEASURES TO REDUCE EMERGENCY FLOOD FIGHTING NEEDS FOR COMMUNITIES SUBJECT TO REPETITIVE FLOODING.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED COMMUNITY.—The term “affected community” means a legally constituted public body (as that term is used in section 221(b) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b(b))—

(A) with jurisdiction over an area that has been subject to flooding in two or more events in any 10-year period; and

(B) that has received emergency flood-fighting assistance, including construction of temporary barriers by the Secretary, under section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n) with respect to such flood events.

(2) NATURAL FEATURE; NATURE-BASED FEATURE.—The terms “natural feature” and “nature-based feature” have the meanings given those terms in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a).

(b) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out a program to study, design, and construct water resources development projects through measures involving, among other things, strengthening, raising, extending, realigning, or otherwise modifying existing flood control works, designing new works, and incorporating natural features, nature-based features, or nonstructural features, as appropriate to provide flood and coastal storm risk management to affected communities.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practical, review and, where appropriate, incorporate natural features or nature-based features, or a combination of such features and nonstructural features, that avoid or reduce at least 50 percent of flood or storm damages in one or more of the alternatives included in the final alternatives evaluated.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a project described in paragraph (1) without further congressional authorization if—

(i) the Secretary determines that the project—

(I) is advisable to reduce the risk of flooding for an affected community; and

(II) produces benefits that are in excess of the estimated costs; and

(ii) the Federal share of the cost of the construction does not exceed \$17,500,000.

(B) SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION.—If the Federal share of the cost of a project described

in paragraph (1) exceeds \$17,500,000, the Secretary shall submit the project recommendation to Congress for authorization prior to construction, and shall include the project recommendation in the next annual report submitted under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

(C) FINANCING.—

(i) CONTRIBUTIONS.—If, based on a study carried out pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that a project described in paragraph (1) will not produce benefits greater than cost, the Secretary shall allow the affected community to pay, or provide contributions equal to, an amount sufficient to make the remaining costs of design and construction of the project equal to the estimated value of the benefits of the project.

(ii) EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Amounts provided by an affected community under clause (i) shall be in addition to any payments or contributions the affected community is required to provide toward the remaining costs of design and construction of the project under section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213).

(4) ABILITY TO PAY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any cost-sharing agreement for a project entered into pursuant to this section shall be subject to the ability of the affected community to pay.

(B) DETERMINATION.—The ability of any affected community to pay shall be determined by the Secretary in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

(C) EFFECT OF REDUCTION.—Any reduction in the non-Federal share of the cost of a project described in paragraph (1) as a result of a determination under this paragraph shall not be included in the Federal share for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3).

**SEC. 120. EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS.**

Section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (i)(D), by inserting “, or provide contributions equal to,” after “pay”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in the heading, by inserting “AND CONTRIBUTIONS” after “OF PAYMENTS”; and

(II) by inserting “or contributions” after “Non-Federal payments”; and

(III) by inserting “or contributions” after “non-Federal payments”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

“(A) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 180 days after receiving, from a non-Federal sponsor of a project to repair or rehabilitate a flood control work described in paragraph (1), a request to initiate a feasibility study to further modify the relevant flood control work to provide for an increased level of protection, the Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal sponsor a written decision on whether the Secretary has the authority under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a) to undertake the requested feasibility study.

“(B) RECOMMENDATION.—If the Secretary determines under subparagraph (B) that the Secretary does not have the authority to undertake the requested feasibility study, the Secretary shall include the request for a feasibility study in the annual report submitted under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “LEVEE OWNERS MANUAL” and inserting “ELIGIBILITY”;

(B) in paragraph (1), in the heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “LEVEE OWNER’S MANUAL”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the status of compliance of a non-Federal interest with the requirements of a levee owner’s manual described in paragraph (1), or with any other eligibility requirement established by the Secretary related to the maintenance and upkeep responsibilities of the non-Federal interest, the Secretary shall consider the non-Federal interest to be eligible for repair and rehabilitation assistance under this section if the non-Federal interest—

“(i) enters into a written agreement with the Secretary that identifies any items of deferred or inadequate maintenance and upkeep identified by the Secretary prior to the natural disaster; and

“(ii) pays, during performance of the repair and rehabilitation work, all costs to address—

“(I) any items of deferred or inadequate maintenance and upkeep identified by the Secretary; and

“(II) any repair or rehabilitation work necessary to address damage the Secretary attributes to such deferred or inadequate maintenance or upkeep.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary may only enter into one agreement under subparagraph (A) with any non-Federal interest.

“(C) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to enter into agreements under paragraph (2) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph.”; and

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “this subsection” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

**SEC. 121. COST AND BENEFIT FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT.**

Section 1161(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 701n note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the “three fiscal years preceding” and inserting “five fiscal years preceding”; and

(B) by striking “last day of the third fiscal year” and inserting “last day of the fifth fiscal year”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or provide contributions equal to,” before “an amount sufficient”; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) the Secretary determines that the damage to the structure was not as a result of negligent operation or maintenance.”.

**SEC. 122. EXPEDITING REPAIRS AND RECOVERY FROM FLOODING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prioritize and expedite the processing of applications for permits under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and permissions under section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408), to complete repairs, reconstruction (including improvements), and upgrades to flood control infrastructure damaged by flooding events during calendar years 2017 through 2020, including flooding events caused by ice jams.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects any obligation to comply with the requirements of any Federal law, including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(3) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

**SEC. 123. REVIEW OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSETS.**

Section 6002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1349) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 6002. REVIEW OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSETS.**

“(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary shall conduct an assessment of projects constructed by the Secretary for which the Secretary continues to have financial or operational responsibility.

“(b) **INVENTORY.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, the Secretary shall, based on the assessment carried out under subsection (a), develop an inventory of projects or portions of projects—

“(1) that are not needed for the missions of the Corps of Engineers;

“(2) the modification of which, including through the use of structural features, non-structural features, or natural features or nature-based features (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)), could improve the sustainable operations of the project, or reduce operation and maintenance costs for the project; or

“(3) that are no longer having project purposes adequately met by the Corps of Engineers, because of deferral of maintenance or other challenges, and the divestment of which to a non-Federal entity could better meet the local and regional needs for operation and maintenance.

“(c) **CRITERIA.**—In conducting the assessment under subsection (a) and developing the inventory under subsection (b), the Secretary shall use the following criteria:

“(1) The extent to which the project aligns with the current missions of the Corps of Engineers.

“(2) The economic and environmental impacts of the project on existing communities in the vicinity of the project.

“(3) The extent to which the divestment or modification of the project could reduce operation and maintenance costs of the Corps of Engineers.

“(4) The extent to which the divestment or modification of the project is in the public interest.

“(5) The extent to which investment of additional Federal resources in the project proposed for divestment or modification, including investment needed to bring the project to a good state of repair, is in the public interest.

“(6) The extent to which the authorized purpose of the project is no longer being met.

“(d) **RECOMMENDATIONS OF NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**—A non-Federal interest for a project may recommend that the Secretary include such project in the assessment or inventory required under this section.

“(e) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon completion of the inventory required by subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report containing the findings of the Secretary with respect to the assessment and inventory required under this section.

“(2) **INCLUSION.**—The Secretary shall list in an appendix any recommendation of a non-Federal interest made with respect to a project under subsection (d) that the Secretary determines not to include in the inventory developed under subsection (b),

based on the criteria in subsection (c), including information about the request and the reasons for the Secretary’s determination.”.

**SEC. 124. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary, in coordination with non-Federal interests, should maximize the development, evaluation, and recommendation of project alternatives for future water resources development projects that produce multiple project benefits, such as navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration benefits, including through the use of natural or nature-based features and the beneficial use of dredged material.

**SEC. 125. BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL; DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.**

(a) **NATIONAL POLICY ON THE BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the policy of the United States for the Corps of Engineers to maximize the beneficial use, in an environmentally acceptable manner, of suitable dredged material obtained from the construction or operation and maintenance of water resources development projects.

(2) **PLACEMENT OF DREDGED MATERIALS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In evaluating the placement of dredged material obtained from the construction or operation and maintenance of water resources development projects, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) the suitability of the dredged material for a full range of beneficial uses; and

(ii) the economic and environmental benefits, efficiencies, and impacts (including the effects on living coral) of using the dredged material for beneficial uses, including, in the case of beneficial use activities that involve more than one water resources development project, the benefits, efficiencies, and impacts that result from the combined activities.

(B) **CALCULATION OF FEDERAL STANDARD.**—

(i) **DETERMINATION.**—The economic benefits and efficiencies from the beneficial use of dredged material considered by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be included in any determination relating to the “Federal standard” by the Secretary under section 335.7 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, for the placement or disposal of such material.

(ii) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress—

(I) a report detailing the method and all of the factors utilized by the Corps of Engineers to determine the Federal standard referred to in clause (i); and

(II) for each evaluation under subparagraph (A), a report displaying the calculations for economic and environmental benefits and efficiencies from the beneficial use of dredged material (including, where appropriate, the utilization of alternative dredging equipment and dredging disposal methods) considered by the Secretary under such subparagraph for the placement or disposal of such material.

(C) **SELECTION OF DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL METHOD FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**—Section 204(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(d)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “In developing” and all that follows through “the non-Federal interest,” and inserting “At the request of the non-Federal interest for a water resources development project involving the disposal of dredged material, the Secretary, using funds appropriated for construction or operation and maintenance of the project, may select”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “flood and storm damage and flood reduction benefits” and inserting “hurricane and storm or flood risk reduction benefits”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **SELECTION OF DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL METHOD FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**—Activities carried out under this subsection—

“(A) shall be carried out using amounts appropriated for construction or operation and maintenance of the project involving the disposal of the dredged material; and

“(B) shall not be carried out using amounts made available under subsection (g).”.

(b) **BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.**—

(1) **PILOT PROGRAM PROJECTS.**—Section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (6), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) recovering lost storage capacity in reservoirs due to sediment accumulation, if the project also has a purpose described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “20” and inserting “35”; and

(C) in subsection (g), by striking “20” and inserting “35”.

(2) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary, in selecting projects for the beneficial use of dredged materials under section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note), should ensure the thorough evaluation of project submissions from rural, small, and economically disadvantaged communities.

(3) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—In selecting projects for the beneficial use of dredged materials under section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note), the Secretary shall prioritize the selection of at least one project for the utilization of thin layer placement of dredged fine and coarse grain sediment and at least one project for recovering lost storage capacity in reservoirs due to sediment accumulation authorized by subsection (a)(8) of such section, to the extent that a non-Federal interest has submitted an application for such project purposes that otherwise meets the requirements of such section.

(4) **TEMPORARY EASEMENTS.**—Section 1148 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “grant” and inserting “approve”; and

(ii) by striking “granting” and inserting “approving”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “grants” and inserting “approves”.

(c) **FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the District Commander of each district of the Corps of Engineers that obtains dredged material through the construction or operation and maintenance of a water resources development project shall, at Federal expense, develop and submit to the Secretary a 5-year dredged material management plan in coordination with relevant State agencies and stakeholders.

(2) **SCOPE.**—Each plan developed under this subsection shall include—

(A) a dredged material budget for each watershed or littoral system within the district;

(B) an estimate of the amount of dredged material likely to be obtained through the construction or operation and maintenance

of all water resources development projects projected to be carried out within the district during the 5-year period following submission of the plan, and the estimated timing for obtaining such dredged material;

(C) an identification of potential water resources development projects projected to be carried out within the district during such 5-year period that are suitable for, or that require, the placement of dredged material, and an estimate of the amount of dredged material placement capacity of such projects;

(D) an evaluation of—  
(i) the suitability of the dredged material for a full range of beneficial uses; and

(ii) the economic and environmental benefits, efficiencies, and impacts (including the effects on living coral) of using the dredged material for beneficial uses, including, in the case of beneficial use activities that involve more than one water resources development project, the benefits, efficiencies, and impacts that result from the combined activities;

(E) the district-wide goals for beneficial use of the dredged material, including any expected cost savings from aligning and coordinating multiple projects (including projects across Corps districts) in the use of the dredged material; and

(F) a description of potential beneficial use projects identified through stakeholder solicitation and coordination.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In developing each plan under this subsection, each District Commander shall provide notice and an opportunity for public comment, including a solicitation for stakeholders to identify beneficial use projects, in order to ensure, to the extent practicable, that beneficial use of dredged material is not foregone in a particular fiscal year or dredging cycle.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Upon submission of each plan to the Secretary under this subsection, each District Commander shall make the plan publicly available, including on a publicly available website.

(5) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable after receiving a plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall transmit the plan to Congress.

(6) REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS.—A plan developed under this section—

(A) shall be in addition to regional sediment management plans prepared under section 204(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(a)); and

(B) shall not be subject to the limitations in section 204(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(g)).

(d) DREDGE PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) REVISIONS.—Section 1111 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “for the operation and maintenance of harbors and inland harbors” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “for the operation and maintenance of—

“(1) harbors and inland harbors referred to in section 210(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(a)(2)); or

“(2) inland and intracoastal waterways of the United States described in section 206 of the Inland Waterways Revenue Act of 1978 (33 U.S.C. 1804).”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “or inland harbors” and inserting “, inland harbors, or inland or intracoastal waterways”.

(2) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may carry out the dredge pilot program authorized by section 1111 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note) in coordina-

tion with Federal regional dredge demonstration programs in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 126. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOR ANADROMOUS FISH.

(a) ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT AND PASSAGE.—Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT AND PASSAGE.—

“(A) MEASURES.—A project under this section may include measures to improve habitat or passage for anadromous fish, including—

“(i) installing fish bypass structures on small water diversions;

“(ii) modifying tide gates; and

“(iii) restoring or reconnecting floodplains and wetlands that are important for anadromous fish habitat or passage.

“(B) BENEFITS.—A project that includes measures under this paragraph shall be formulated to maximize benefits for the anadromous fish species benefitted by the project.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall give projects that include measures described in subsection (a)(3) equal priority for implementation as other projects under this section.”.

#### SEC. 127. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(III), by inserting “, regional, or local” after “national”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) MODIFICATIONS OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a project being carried out pursuant to a continuing authority program for which a proposed modification is necessary because the project is projected to exceed, in the coming fiscal year, the maximum Federal cost of the project, the Secretary shall include a proposed modification in the annual report if the proposed modification will result in completion of construction of the project and the justification for the modification is not the result of a change in the scope of the project.

“(ii) INCLUSION.—For each proposed modification included in an annual report under clause (i), the Secretary shall include in the annual report—

“(I) a justification of why the modification is necessary;

“(II) an estimate of the total cost and timeline required to complete construction of the project; and

“(III) an indication of continued support by the non-Federal interest and the financial ability of the non-Federal interest to provide the required cost-share.

“(iii) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘continuing authority program’ means any of—

“(I) section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 701r);

“(II) section 3 of the Act of August 13, 1946 (33 U.S.C. 426g);

“(III) section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 577);

“(IV) section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 426i);

“(V) section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326);

“(VI) section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s);

“(VII) section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330);

“(VIII) section 2 of the Act of August 28, 1937 (33 U.S.C. 701g); and

“(IX) section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2309a).”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(B)—

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

(ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) the Secretary shall not include proposals in the appendix of the annual report that otherwise meet the criteria for inclusion in the annual report solely on the basis that the proposals are for the purposes of navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, or municipal or agricultural water supply; and”; and

(2) in subsection (g)(5), by striking “if authorized” and all that follows through “2016”.

(b) OVER-BUDGET CAP PROGRAMS.—For any project carried out under a continuing authority program, as such term is defined in section 7001(c)(1)(D) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d), for which the Secretary is required to include a proposed modification in an annual report under such section 7001(c)(1)(D), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, inform the non-Federal interest of the process for carrying out the project pursuant to section 105 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215) and whether the Secretary has the authority to complete a feasibility study for the project.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON STATUS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES.—Concurrent with each report submitted under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that provides for an accounting of all outstanding feasibility studies being conducted by the Secretary, including, for each such study, its length, cost, and expected completion date.

#### SEC. 128. HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a demonstration program to determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate, harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects.

(b) CONSULTATION; USE OF EXISTING DATA AND PROGRAM AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out the demonstration program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the heads of appropriate Federal and State agencies; and

(2) make maximum use of existing Federal and State data and ongoing programs and activities of Federal and State agencies, including the activities of the Secretary carried out through the Engineer Research and Development Center pursuant to section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 610 note).

(c) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the demonstration program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall undertake program activities related to harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, the tidal and inland waters of the State of New Jersey, the coastal and tidal waters of the State of Louisiana, the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California, the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed, New York, and Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

(d) **ADDITIONAL FOCUS AREAS.**—In addition to the areas described in subsection (c), in carrying out the demonstration program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall undertake program activities related to harmful algal blooms at any Federal reservoir located in the Upper Missouri River Basin or the North Platte River Basin, at the request and expense of another Federal agency.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$25,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

**SEC. 129. MISSOURI RIVER INTERCEPTION-REARING COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the effects of any interception-rearing complex constructed on the Missouri River on—

(1) flood risk management and navigation; and

(2) the population recovery of the pallid sturgeon, including baseline population counts.

(b) **NO ADDITIONAL IRC CONSTRUCTION.**—The Secretary may not authorize construction of an interception-rearing complex on the Missouri River until the Secretary—

(1) submits the report required by subsection (a);

(2) acting through the Engineer Research and Development Center, conducts further research on interception-rearing complex design, including any effects on existing flows, flood risk management, and navigation; and

(3) develops a plan—

(A) to repair dikes and revetments that are affecting flood risk and bank erosion; and

(B) to establish, repair, or improve water control structures at the headworks of constructed shallow water habitat side-channels.

(c) **FUTURE IRC CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—The Secretary shall provide an opportunity for comment from the public and the Governor of each affected State on any proposals to construct an interception-rearing complex after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **PERIOD.**—The public comment period required by paragraph (1) shall be not less than 90 days for each proposal to construct an interception-rearing complex on the Missouri River.

**SEC. 130. MATERIALS, SERVICES, AND FUNDS FOR REPAIR, RESTORATION, OR REHABILITATION OF PROJECTS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED AREA.**—The term “covered area” means an area—

(A) for which the Governor of a State has requested a determination that an emergency exists; or

(B) covered by an emergency or major disaster declaration declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(2) **EMERGENCY PERIOD.**—The term “emergency period” means—

(A) with respect to a covered area described in paragraph (1)(A), the period during which the Secretary determines an emergency exists; and

(B) with respect to a covered area described in paragraph (1)(B), the period during which the applicable declaration is in effect.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—In any covered area, the Secretary is authorized to accept and use materials, services, and funds, during the emergency period, from a non-Federal interest or private entity to repair, restore, or rehabilitate a federally authorized water re-

sources development project, and to provide reimbursement to such non-Federal interest or private entity for such materials, services, and funds, in the Secretary’s sole discretion, and subject to the availability of appropriations, if the Secretary determines that reimbursement is in the public interest.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary may only reimburse for the use of materials or services accepted under this section if such materials or services meet the Secretary’s specifications and comply with all applicable laws and regulations that would apply if such materials and services were acquired by the Secretary, including sections 3141 through 3148 and 3701 through 3708 of title 40, United States Code, section 8302 of title 41, United States Code, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(d) **AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Prior to the acceptance of materials, services, or funds under this section, the Secretary and the non-Federal interest or private entity shall enter into an agreement that specifies—

(A) the non-Federal interest or private entity shall hold and save the United States free from any and all damages that arise from use of materials or services of the non-Federal interest or private entity, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors;

(B) the non-Federal interest or private entity shall certify that the materials or services comply with all applicable laws and regulations under subsection (c); and

(C) any other term or condition required by the Secretary.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—If an agreement under paragraph (1) was not entered prior to materials or services being contributed, a non-Federal interest or private entity shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies the value, as determined by the Secretary, of those materials or services contributed and eligible for reimbursement; and

(B) ensures that the materials or services comply with subsection (c) and paragraph (1).

**SEC. 131. LEVEE SAFETY.**

Section 9004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **IDENTIFICATION OF DEFICIENCIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each levee included in an inventory established under subsection (b) or for which the Secretary has conducted a review under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

“(A) identify the specific engineering and maintenance deficiencies, if any; and

“(B) describe the recommended remedies to correct each deficiency identified under subparagraph (A), and, if requested by owner of a non-Federal levee, the associated costs of those remedies.

“(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In identifying deficiencies and describing remedies for a levee under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with relevant non-Federal interests, including by providing an opportunity for comment by those non-Federal interests.”.

**SEC. 132. NATIONAL DAM SAFETY PROGRAM.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 2 of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) has an emergency action plan that—

“(I) is approved by the relevant State dam safety agency; or

“(II) is in conformance with State law and pending approval by the relevant State dam safety agency;”;

(ii) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

“(iv) fails to meet minimum dam safety standards of the State in which the dam is located, as determined by the State; and

“(v) poses an unacceptable risk to the public, as determined by the Administrator, in consultation with the Board.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “under a hydropower project with an authorized installed capacity of greater than 1.5 megawatts” after “dam”; and

(2) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR” and inserting “ELIGIBLE SUBRECIPIENT”; and

(B) by striking “The term ‘non-Federal sponsor’” and inserting “The term ‘eligible subrecipient’”.

(b) **REHABILITATION OF HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Section 8A(a) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(a)) is amended by striking “to non-Federal sponsors” and inserting “to States with dam safety programs”.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Section 8A(b) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(b)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “for a project may be used for” and inserting “to a State may be used by the State to award grants to eligible subrecipients for”.

(3) **AWARD OF GRANTS.**—Section 8A(c) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “non-Federal sponsor” and inserting “State”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an eligible high hazard potential dam to a non-Federal sponsor” and inserting “eligible high hazard potential dams to a State”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “PROJECT GRANT” and inserting “GRANT”; and

(II) by striking “project grant agreement with the non-Federal sponsor” and inserting “grant agreement with the State”; and

(III) by striking “project,” and inserting “projects for which the grant is awarded;”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) **GRANT ASSURANCE.**—As part of a grant agreement under subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall require that each eligible subrecipient to which the State awards a grant under this section provides an assurance, with respect to the dam to be rehabilitated by the eligible subrecipient, that the dam owner will carry out a plan for maintenance of the dam during the expected life of the dam.”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “A grant provided under this section shall not exceed” and inserting “A State may not award a grant to an eligible subrecipient under this section that exceeds, for any 1 dam,”.

(4) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 8A(d) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(d)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “to an eligible subrecipient” after “this section”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR” and inserting “ELIGIBLE SUBRECIPIENT”; and

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the non-Federal sponsor shall” and inserting “an eligible subrecipient shall, with respect to the dam to be rehabilitated by the eligible subrecipient”; and

(iii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) demonstrate that the community in which the dam is located participates in, and

complies with, all applicable Federal flood insurance programs, including demonstrating that such community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and is not on probation, suspended, or withdrawn from such Program.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), by striking “have” and inserting “beginning not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator publishes criteria for hazard mitigation plans under paragraph (3), demonstrate that the Tribal or local government with jurisdiction over the area in which the dam is located has”;

(v) in subparagraph (C), by striking “50-year period” and inserting “expected life of the dam”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall publish criteria for hazard mitigation plans required under paragraph (2)(B).”.

(5) FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 8A(e) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the non-Federal sponsor” and inserting “an eligible subrecipient”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1 year” and inserting “2 years” each place it appears; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) PLAN CRITERIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall provide criteria, and may provide technical support, for the development and implementation of floodplain management plans prepared under this subsection.”.

(6) CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8A(i)(1) of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f-2(i)(1)) is amended by striking “a non-Federal sponsor” and inserting “an eligible subrecipient”.

### SEC. 133. REHABILITATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTED PUMP STATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE PUMP STATION.—The term “eligible pump station” means a pump station—

(A) constructed, in whole or in part, by the Corps of Engineers for flood risk management purposes;

(B) that the Secretary has identified as having a major deficiency; and

(C) the failure of which the Secretary has determined would impair the function of a flood risk management project constructed by the Corps of Engineers.

(2) REHABILITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “rehabilitation”, with respect to an eligible pump station, means to address a major deficiency of the eligible pump station caused by long-term degradation of the foundation, construction materials, or engineering systems or components of the eligible pump station.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “rehabilitation”, with respect to an eligible pump station, includes—

(i) the incorporation into the eligible pump station of—

- (I) current design standards;
- (II) efficiency improvements; and
- (III) associated drainage; and

(ii) increasing the capacity of the eligible pump station, subject to the condition that the increase shall—

(I) significantly decrease the risk of loss of life and property damage; or

(II) decrease total lifecycle rehabilitation costs for the eligible pump station.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may carry out rehabilitation of an eligible pump

station, if the Secretary determines that the rehabilitation is feasible.

(c) COST SHARING.—The non-Federal interest for the eligible pump station shall—

(1) provide 35 percent of the cost of rehabilitation of an eligible pump station carried out under this section; and

(2) provide all land, easements, rights-of-way, and necessary relocations associated with the rehabilitation described in subparagraph (A), at no cost to the Federal Government.

(d) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—The rehabilitation of an eligible pump station pursuant to this section shall be initiated only after a non-Federal interest has entered into a binding agreement with the Secretary—

(1) to pay the non-Federal share of the costs of rehabilitation under subsection (c); and

(2) to pay 100 percent of the operation and maintenance costs of the rehabilitated eligible pump station, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

(e) TREATMENT.—The rehabilitation of an eligible pump station pursuant to this section shall not be considered to be a separable element of the associated flood risk management project constructed by the Corps of Engineers.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

### SEC. 134. NON-FEDERAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION; IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.—Section 1043(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 30, 2026”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “2023” and inserting “2026”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall issue guidance for the implementation of the pilot program that, to the extent practicable, identifies—

“(i) the metrics for measuring the success of the pilot program;

“(ii) a process for identifying future projects to participate in the pilot program;

“(iii) measures to address the risks of a non-Federal interest constructing projects under the pilot program, including which entity bears the risk for projects that fail to meet the Corps of Engineers standards for design or quality;

“(iv) the laws and regulations that a non-Federal interest must follow in carrying out a project under the pilot program; and

“(v) which entity bears the risk in the event that a project carried out under the pilot program fails to be carried out in accordance with the project authorization or this subsection.

“(B) NEW PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may not enter into a project partnership agreement under this subsection during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph and ending on the date on which the Secretary issues the guidance under subparagraph (A).”.

(b) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program authorized under section 1043(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note), the Secretary is authorized to include a project authorized to be implemented by, or in accordance with, section 601 of the Water Re-

sources Development Act of 2000, in accordance with such section 1043(b).

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of a project described in paragraph (1) for which the non-Federal interest has initiated construction in compliance with authorities governing the provision of in-kind contributions for such project, the Secretary shall take into account the value of any in-kind contributions carried out by the non-Federal interest for such project prior to the date of execution of the project partnership agreement under section 1043(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 when determining the non-Federal share of the costs to complete construction of the project.

(3) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in accordance with the guidance issued under section 1043(b)(9) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (as added by this section), the Secretary shall issue any additional guidance that the Secretary determines necessary for the implementation of this subsection.

### SEC. 135. COST SHARING PROVISIONS FOR TERRITORIES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 1156(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310(b)) is amended by striking “for inflation” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “on an annual basis for inflation.”.

### SEC. 136. REVIEW OF CONTRACTING POLICIES.

(a) REVIEW OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall complete a review of the policies, guidelines, and regulations of the Corps of Engineers for the development of contractual agreements between the Secretary and non-Federal interests and utilities associated with the construction of water resources development projects.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the review under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and make publicly available, a report that includes—

(A) a summary of the results of the review; and

(B) public guidance on best practices for a non-Federal interest to use when writing or developing contractual agreements with the Secretary and utilities.

(3) PROVISION OF GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall provide the best practices guidance included under paragraph (2)(A) to non-Federal interests prior to the development of contractual agreements with such non-Federal interests.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should maximize use of nonprice tradeoff procedures in competitive acquisitions for carrying out emergency work in an area with respect to which the President has declared a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

### SEC. 137. CRITERIA FOR FUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop specific criteria for the evaluation and ranking of individual environmental assistance projects authorized by Congress (including projects authorized pursuant to environmental assistance programs) for the Secretary to carry out.

(b) MINIMUM CRITERIA.—For the purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary shall evaluate, at a minimum—

(1) the nature and extent of the positive and negative local economic impacts of the project, including—

(A) the benefits of the project to the local economy;

(B) the extent to which the project will enhance local development;

(C) the number of jobs that will be directly created by the project; and

(D) the ability of the non-Federal interest to pay the applicable non-Federal share of the cost of the project;

(2) the demographics of the location in which the project is to be carried out, including whether the project serves—

(A) a rural community; or

(B) an economically disadvantaged community, including an economically disadvantaged minority community;

(3) the amount of appropriations a project has received;

(4) the funding capability of the Corps of Engineers with respect to the project;

(5) whether the project could be carried out under other Federal authorities at an equivalent cost to the non-Federal interest; and

(6) any other criteria that the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

(c) **INCLUSION IN GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary shall include the criteria developed under subsection (a) in the annual Civil Works Direct Program Development Policy Guidance of the Secretary.

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—For fiscal year 2022, and biennially thereafter, in conjunction with the President's annual budget submission to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that identifies the Secretary's ranking of individual environmental assistance projects authorized by Congress for the Secretary to carry out, in accordance with the criteria developed under this section.

#### SEC. 138. AGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGING INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term “aging infrastructure” means a water resources development project of the Corps of Engineers, or any other water resources, water storage, or irrigation project of another Federal agency, that is greater than 75 years old.

(2) **ENHANCED INSPECTION.**—The term “enhanced inspection” means an inspection that uses current or innovative technology, including Light Detection and Ranging (commonly known as “LiDAR”), ground penetrating radar, subsurface imaging, or subsurface geophysical techniques, to detect whether the features of the aging infrastructure are structurally sound and can operate as intended, or are at risk of failure.

(b) **CONTRACTS FOR ENHANCED INSPECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may carry out enhanced inspections of aging infrastructure, pursuant to a contract with the owner or operator of the aging infrastructure.

(2) **CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, or funds available pursuant to subsection (d), the Secretary shall enter into a contract described in paragraph (1), if—

(A) the owner or operator of the aging infrastructure requests that the Secretary carry out the enhanced inspections; and

(B) the inspection is at the full expense of such owner or operator.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not require a non-Federal entity associated with a project under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency to carry out corrective or re-

medial actions in response to an enhanced inspection carried out under this section.

(d) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary is authorized to accept funds from an owner or operator of aging infrastructure, and may use such funds to carry out an enhanced inspection pursuant to a contract entered into with such owner or operator under this section.

#### SEC. 139. UNIFORMITY OF NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS.

(a) **INVENTORY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an inventory of all systems used by the Corps of Engineers for external communication and notification with respect to projects, initiatives, and facilities of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) **UNIFORM PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan for the uniformity of such communication and notification systems for projects, initiatives, and facilities of the Corps of Engineers.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide access to information in all forms practicable, including through email, text messages, news programs and websites, radio, and other forms of notification;

(B) establish a notification system for any projects, initiatives, or facilities of the Corps of Engineers that do not have a notification system;

(C) streamline existing communication and notification systems to improve the strength and uniformity of those systems; and

(D) emphasize the necessity of timeliness in notification systems and ensure that the methods of notification can transmit information in a timely manner.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the implementation of the plan developed under paragraph (1).

(B) **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement the provisions of the plan developed under paragraph (1) relating to emergency management notifications.

(4) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section authorizes the elimination of any existing communication or notification system used by the Corps of Engineers.

#### SEC. 140. COASTAL STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION CONTRACTS.

For any project for coastal storm damage reduction, the Secretary may seek input from a non-Federal interest for a project that may be affected by the timing of the coastal storm damage reduction activities under the project, in order to minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, any negative effects resulting from the timing of those activities.

#### SEC. 141. DAM REMEDIATION FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.

Section 542(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2671; 121 Stat. 1150) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) measures to restore, protect, and preserve an ecosystem affected by a dam (including by the rehabilitation or modification of a dam)—

“(i) that has been constructed, in whole or in part, by the Corps of Engineers for flood control purposes;

“(ii) for which construction was completed before 1940;

“(iii) that is classified as ‘high hazard potential’ by the State dam safety agency of the State in which the dam is located; and

“(iv) that is operated by a non-Federal entity; or”.

#### SEC. 142. LEVEE ACCREDITATION PROCESS; LEVEE CERTIFICATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the process developed by the Flood Protection Structure Accreditation Task Force established under section 100226 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (42 U.S.C. 4101 note) should not be limited to levee systems in the inspection of completed works program of the Corps of Engineers, but should apply equally to federally owned levee systems operated by the Secretary, including federally owned levee systems operated by the Secretary as part of a reservoir project.

(b) **LEVEE CERTIFICATIONS.**—Section 3014 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 4131) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “under the inspection of completed works program” and inserting “for levee systems under the levee safety and dam safety programs”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “activities under the inspection of completed works program of the Corps of Engineers” and inserting “the activities referred to in paragraph (1)”; and

(ii) by striking “chapter 1” and inserting “chapter I”; and

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) in the case of a levee system that is operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, to the maximum extent practicable, cooperate with local governments seeking a levee accreditation decision for the levee to provide information necessary to support the accreditation decision in a timely manner.”; and

(2) in paragraph (b)(3), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), a non-Federal interest may fund up to 100 percent of the cost of any activity carried out under this subsection.”.

#### SEC. 143. PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.

Section 103(j)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(j)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Any project” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any project”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **INCLUSION.**—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include a brief description and estimation of the anticipated operations, maintenance, and replacement and rehabilitation costs of the non-Federal interest for the project.”.

#### SEC. 144. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR HARBOR DREDGING.

The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with section 5 of Act of June 22, 1936 (33 U.S.C. 701h), to accept and expend funds contributed by a State or other non-Federal interest—

(1) to dredge a non-Federal harbor or channel, or a marina or berthing area located adjacent to, or accessible by, such harbor or channel; or

(2) to provide technical assistance related to the planning and design of dredging activities described in paragraph (1).

**SEC. 145. REPLACEMENT CAPACITY.**

Section 217(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(a)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “OR REPLACEMENT CAPACITY” after “ADDITIONAL CAPACITY”;

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) PROVIDED BY SECRETARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), at the request of a non-Federal interest with respect to a project, the Secretary may—

“(i) provide additional capacity at a dredged material disposal facility constructed by the Secretary beyond the capacity that would be required for project purposes; or

“(ii) permit the use of dredged material disposal facility capacity required for project purposes by the non-Federal interest if the Secretary determines that replacement capacity can be constructed at the facility or another facility or site before such capacity is needed for project purposes.

“(B) AGREEMENT.—Before the Secretary takes an action under subparagraph (A), the non-Federal interest shall agree to pay—

“(i) all costs associated with the construction of the additional capacity or replacement capacity in advance of construction of such capacity; and

“(ii) in the case of use by a non-Federal interest of dredged material disposal capacity required for project purposes under subparagraph (A)(ii), any increase in the cost of operation and maintenance of the project that the Secretary determines results from the use of the project capacity by the non-Federal interest in advance of each cycle of dredging.

“(C) CREDIT.—In the event the Secretary determines that the cost to operate or maintain the project decreases as a result of use by the non-Federal interest of dredged material disposal capacity required for project purposes under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary, at the request of the non-Federal interest, shall credit the amount of the decrease toward any cash contribution of the non-Federal interest required thereafter for construction, operation, or maintenance of the project, or of another navigation project.”;

(3) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence, by inserting “under paragraph (1)(A)(i)” after “additional capacity”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR DESIGNATION OF REPLACEMENT CAPACITY FACILITY OR SITE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary or advisable, an agreement under paragraph (1)(B) for use permitted under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall reserve to the non-Federal interest—

“(i) the right to submit to the Secretary for approval at a later date an alternative to the facility or site designated in the agreement for construction of replacement capacity; and

“(ii) the right to construct the replacement capacity at the alternative facility or site at the expense of the non-Federal interest.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall not reject a site for the construction of replacement capacity under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) that is submitted by the non-Federal interest for approval by the Secretary before the date of execution of the agreement under paragraph (1)(B), or thereafter, unless the Secretary—

“(i) determines that the site is environmentally unacceptable, geographically unacceptable, or technically unsound; and

“(ii) provides a written basis for the determination under clause (i) to the non-Federal interest.

“(4) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall afford the public an opportunity to comment on the determinations required under this subsection for a use permitted under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).”.

**SEC. 146. REVIEWING HYDROPOWER AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS FACILITIES.**

Section 1008 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2321b) is amended—

(1) by striking “civil works” each place it appears and inserting “water resources development”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REVIEWING HYDROPOWER AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS FACILITIES.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible non-Federal interest’ means a non-Federal interest that owns or operates an existing non-Federal hydropower facility at a Corps of Engineers water resources development project.

“(2) EVALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the written request of an eligible non-Federal interest, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation to consider operational changes at the applicable project to facilitate production of non-Federal hydropower, consistent with authorized project purposes. The Secretary shall solicit input from interested stakeholders as part of the evaluation.

“(B) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a written request under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal interest a written response to inform the non-Federal interest—

“(i) that the Secretary has approved the request to conduct an evaluation; or

“(ii) of any additional information necessary for the Secretary to approve the request to conduct an evaluation.

“(3) OPERATIONAL CHANGES.—An operational change referred to in paragraph (2)(A) may include—

“(A) changes to seasonal pool levels;

“(B) modifying releases from the project; and

“(C) other changes included in the written request submitted under that paragraph that enhance the usage of the project to facilitate production of non-Federal hydropower, consistent with authorized project purposes.

“(4) COST SHARE.—The eligible non-Federal interest shall pay 100 percent of the costs associated with an evaluation under this subsection, including the costs to prepare the report under paragraph (6).

“(5) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete an evaluation under this subsection by the date that is not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary begins the evaluation.

“(6) REPORT.—On completion of an evaluation under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the effects of the operational changes proposed by the non-Federal interest and examined in the evaluation on the authorized purposes of the project, including a description of any negative impacts of the proposed operational changes on the authorized purposes of the project, or on any Federal project located in the same basin.

“(7) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection—

“(A) affects the authorized purposes of a Corps of Engineers water resources development project;

“(B) affects existing authorities of the Corps of Engineers, including authorities with respect to navigation, flood damage reduction, environmental protection and restoration, water supply and conservation, and other related purposes; or

“(C) authorizes the Secretary to make any operational changes to a Corps of Engineers water resources development project.”.

**SEC. 147. REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF EMBANKMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a non-Federal interest, the Secretary shall assess the cause of damage to, or the failure of, an embankment that is adjacent to the shoreline of a reservoir project owned and operated by the Secretary for which such damage or failure to the embankment has adversely affected a roadway that the Secretary has relocated for construction of the reservoir.

(b) REPAIR AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—If, based on the assessment carried out under subsection (a), the Secretary determines that the cause of the damage to, or the failure of, the embankment is the direct result of the design or operation of the reservoir by the Secretary, the Secretary is authorized to participate in the repair or restoration of such embankment.

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

**SEC. 148. COASTAL MAPPING.**

Section 516 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h);

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) COASTAL MAPPING.—The Secretary shall develop and carry out a plan for the recurring mapping of coastlines that are experiencing rapid change, including such coastlines in—

“(1) Alaska;

“(2) Hawaii; and

“(3) any territory or possession of the United States.”; and

(3) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) COASTAL MAPPING.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (g) with respect to Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories and possessions of the United States, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.

**SEC. 149. INTERIM RISK REDUCTION MEASURES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any interim risk reduction measure for dam safety purposes that was evaluated in a final environmental assessment completed during the period beginning on March 18, 2019, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out a reevaluation of the measure in a timely manner if the final environmental assessment did not consider in detail at least—

(1) operational water control plan change alternative;

(2) 1 action alternative other than an operational water control plan change; and

(3) the no action alternative.

(b) COORDINATION.—A reevaluation carried out under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the alternatives described in such subsection, which shall be developed in coordination with Federal agencies, States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and other non-Federal interests that have existing water obligations that would be directly affected by implementation of an interim risk reduction measure that is the subject of the reevaluation.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PRIOR TO REEVALUATION.—Nothing in this section prohibits the

Secretary from implementing an interim risk reduction measure for which a reevaluation is required under subsection (a) prior to the completion of the reevaluation under subsection (a).

**SEC. 150. MAINTENANCE DREDGING PERMITS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, prioritize the reissuance of any regional general permit for maintenance dredging that expires prior to May 1, 2021, and shall use best efforts to ensure such reissuance prior to expiration of such a regional general permit for maintenance dredging.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects any obligation to comply with the requirements of any Federal law, including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(3) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

**SEC. 151. HIGH WATER-LOW WATER PREPAREDNESS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BYPASS.—The term “bypass” means an alternate water route adjacent to a lock and dam on a Federal inland waterway system that can be used for commercial navigation during high water conditions.

(2) EMERGENCY CONDITION.—The term “emergency condition” means—

(A) unsafe conditions on a Federal inland waterway system that prevent the operation of commercial vessels, resulting from a major change in water level or flows;

(B) an obstruction in a Federal inland waterway system, including silt, sediment, rock formation, or a shallow channel;

(C) an impaired or inoperable Federal lock and dam; or

(D) any other condition determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the District Commanders responsible for maintaining any Federal inland waterway system, the users of the waterway system, and the Coast Guard, may make a determination that an emergency condition exists on the waterway system.

(c) EMERGENCY MITIGATION PROJECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with all applicable Federal requirements, the Secretary may carry out an emergency mitigation project on a Federal inland waterway system with respect to which the Secretary has determined that an emergency condition exists under subsection (b), or on a bypass of such system, to remedy that emergency condition.

(2) DEADLINE.—An emergency mitigation project under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be initiated by not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary makes the applicable determination under subsection (b); and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, be completed by not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary makes such determination.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024, to remain available until expended.

**SEC. 152. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS AND COSTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a flood risk management project that incidentally generates seismic safety benefits in regions of moderate or high seismic hazard, for the purpose of a benefit-cost analysis for the project, the Secretary shall not include in

that analysis any additional design and construction costs resulting from addressing seismic concerns.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Except with respect to the benefit-cost analysis, the additional costs referred to in subsection (a) shall be—

(1) included in the total project cost; and

(2) subject to cost-share requirements otherwise applicable to the project.

**SEC. 153. LEASE DEVIATIONS.**

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED LEASE DEVIATION.—In this section, the term “covered lease deviation” means a change in terms from the existing lease that requires approval from the Secretary for a lease—

(1) of Federal land within the State of Oklahoma that is associated with a water resources development project, under—

(A) section 2667 of title 10, United States Code; or

(B) section 4 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (16 U.S.C. 460d); and

(2) with respect to which the lessee is in good standing.

(b) DEADLINE.—In the case of a request for a covered lease deviation—

(1) the Division Commander of the Southwestern Division shall—

(A) notify the Secretary of the request via electronic means by not later than 24 hours after receiving the request; and

(B) by not later than 10 business days after the date on which the Division Commander notifies the Secretary under subparagraph (A)—

(i) make a determination approving, denying, or requesting a modification to the request; and

(ii) provide to the Secretary the determination under clause (i); and

(2) if the Division Commander does not make a determination under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall make a determination approving, denying, or requesting a modification to the request by not later than 10 business days after the date on which the deadline described in paragraph (1)(B) expires.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (b)(2) by the deadline described in that subsection, the Secretary shall submit a notification of the failure to make a determination with respect to the covered lease deviation, including the reason for the failure and a description of any outstanding issues, to—

(1) the entity seeking the covered lease deviation;

(2) the members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation;

(3) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 154. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ARCTIC DEEP DRAFT PORT DEVELOPMENT.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Arctic, as defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-373), is a region of strategic importance to the national security and maritime transportation interests of the United States;

(2) there is a compelling national, regional, Alaska Native, and private sector need for permanent maritime transportation infrastructure development and for a presence in the Arctic by the United States to assert national security interests and to support and facilitate search and rescue, shipping safety, economic development, oil spill prevention and response, subsistence and commercial fishing, the establishment of ports of refuge, Arctic research, and maritime law enforcement;

(3) the Government of the Russian Federation has prioritized the development of Arctic maritime transportation capabilities and has made significant investments in military infrastructure in the Arctic, including the construction or refurbishment of 16 deep-water ports in the region;

(4) is a serious concern that the closest United States strategic seaports to the Arctic are the Port of Anchorage and the Port of Tacoma, located approximately 1,500 nautical miles and 2,400 nautical miles away from the Arctic, respectively, and approximately 1,900 nautical miles and 2,800 nautical miles, respectively, from Utiagvik, Alaska; and

(5) it is in the national interest to enhance existing, and develop, maritime transportation infrastructure in the Arctic, including an Arctic deep draft strategic seaport in Alaska, that would allow the Coast Guard and the Navy each to perform their respective statutory duties and functions on a permanent basis with minimal mission interruption.

**SEC. 155. SMALL WATER STORAGE PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to study and construct new, or enlarge existing, small water storage projects, in partnership with a non-Federal interest.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to participate in the program under this section, a small water storage project shall—

(1) in the case of a new small water storage project, have a water storage capacity of not less than 2,000 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet;

(2) in the case of an enlargement of an existing small water storage project, be for an enlargement of not less than 1,000 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet;

(3) provide—

(A) flood risk management benefits;

(B) ecological benefits; or

(C) water management, water conservation, or water supply; and

(4) be—

(A) economically justified, environmentally acceptable, and technically feasible; or

(B) in the case of a project providing ecological benefits, cost-effective with respect to such benefits.

(c) SCOPE.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to a small water storage project located in a State with a population of less than 1,000,000.

(d) EXPEDITED PROJECTS.—For the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall expedite small water storage projects under this section for which applicable Federal permitting requirements have been completed.

(e) USE OF DATA.—In conducting a study under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall—

(1) as the Secretary determines appropriate, consider and utilize any applicable hydrologic, economic, or environmental data that is prepared for a small water storage project under State law as the documentation, or part of the documentation, required to complete State water plans or other State planning documents relating to water resources management; and

(2) consider information developed by the non-Federal interest in relation to another study, to the extent the Secretary determines such information is applicable, appropriate, or otherwise authorized by law.

(f) COST SHARE.—

(1) STUDY.—The Federal share of the cost of a study conducted under this section shall be—

(A) 100 percent for costs not to exceed \$100,000; and

(B) 50 percent for any costs above \$100,000.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—A small water storage project carried out under this section shall be subject to the cost-sharing requirements applicable to projects under section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213), including—

(A) municipal and industrial water supply: 100 percent non-Federal;

(B) agricultural water supply: 35 percent non-Federal; and

(C) recreation, including recreational navigation: 50 percent of separable costs and, in the case of any harbor or inland harbor or channel project, 50 percent of joint and separable costs allocated to recreational navigation.

(g) OMRRR RESPONSIBILITY.—The costs of operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement and rehabilitation for a small water storage project constructed under this section shall be the responsibility of the non-Federal interest.

(h) INDIVIDUAL PROJECT LIMIT.—Not more than \$65,000,000 in Federal funds may be made available to a small water storage project under this section.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$130,000,000 annually through fiscal year 2030.

#### SEC. 156. PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES.

In carrying out section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16), the Secretary shall provide equal priority for all mission areas of the Corps of Engineers, including water supply and water conservation.

#### SEC. 157. FORECAST-INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.

Section 1222 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (128 Stat. 3811) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADDITIONAL UTILIZATION OF FORECAST-INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on any additional opportunities identified for utilizing forecast-informed reservoir operations across the United States, including an assessment of the viability of forecast-informed reservoir operations in the Upper Missouri River Basin and the North Platte River Basin.

“(2) FORECAST-INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION.—If the Secretary determines, and includes in the report submitted under paragraph (1), that forecast-informed reservoir operations are viable at a reservoir in the Upper Missouri River Basin or the North Platte River Basin, including a reservoir for which the Secretary has flood control responsibilities under section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (33 U.S.C. 709), the Secretary is authorized to carry out forecast-informed reservoir operations at such reservoir.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, if the Secretary determines, and includes in the report submitted under paragraph (1), that forecast-informed reservoir operations are viable in the Upper Missouri River Basin or the North Platte River Basin, the Secretary shall carry out forecast-informed reservoir operations at not fewer than one reservoir in such basin.”.

#### SEC. 158. DATA FOR WATER ALLOCATION, SUPPLY, AND DEMAND.

(a) STUDY ON DATA FOR WATER ALLOCATION, SUPPLY, AND DEMAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement with the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the ability of Federal agencies to coordinate with other Federal agencies, State and local agencies, Indian Tribes, communities, universities, consortiums, councils, and other relevant entities with expertise in water resources to facilitate and coordinate the sharing among such entities of water allocation, supply, and demand data, including—

(A) any catalogs of such data;

(B) definitions of any commonly used terms relating to water allocation, supply, and demand; and

(C) a description of any common standards used by those entities.

(2) REPORT.—If the National Academy of Sciences enters into an agreement under paragraph (1), to the maximum extent practicable, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(A) the results of the study under paragraph (1);

(B) recommendations for ways to streamline and make cost-effective methods for Federal agencies to coordinate interstate sharing of data, including recommendations for the development of a publicly accessible, internet-based platform that can allow entities described in paragraph (1) to communicate and coordinate ongoing data collection efforts relating to water allocation, supply, and demand, and share best practices relating to those efforts; and

(C) a recommendation as to an appropriate Federal entity that should—

(i) serve as the lead coordinator for the sharing of data relating to water allocation, supply, and demand; and

(ii) host and manage the internet-based platform described in subparagraph (B).

(b) DATA TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall prioritize making publicly available water resources data in the custody of the Corps of Engineers, as authorized by section 2017 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2342).

(c) FUNDING.—From amounts otherwise appropriated or made available to the Secretary, the Secretary may make available to the National Academy of Sciences not more than \$3,900,000, to be used for the review of information provided by the Corps of Engineers for purposes of a study under subsection (a). The Secretary may accept funds from another Federal agency and make such funds available to the National Academy of Sciences, to be used for the review of information provided by such agency for purposes of a study under subsection (a).

#### SEC. 159. INLAND WATERWAYS PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED PROJECT.—The term “authorized project” means a federally authorized water resources development project for navigation on the inland waterways.

(2) MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—The term “modernization activities” means construction or major rehabilitation activities for any authorized project.

(3) NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—The term “non-Federal interest” means any public body described in section 221(b) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b(b)).

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out a pilot program for modernization activities on the inland waterways system.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary may—

(A) accept and expend funds provided by a non-Federal interest to carry out, for an authorized project (or a separable element of

an authorized project), modernization activities for such project; or

(B) coordinate with the non-Federal interest in order to allow the non-Federal interest to carry out, for an authorized project (or a separable element of an authorized project), such modernization activities.

(2) NUMBER.—The Secretary shall select not more than 2 authorized projects to participate in the pilot program under paragraph (1).

(3) CONDITIONS.—Before carrying out modernization activities pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), a non-Federal interest shall—

(A) obtain any permit or approval required in connection with such activities under Federal or State law that would be required if the Secretary were to carry out such activities; and

(B) ensure that a final environmental impact statement or environmental assessment, as appropriate, for such activities has been filed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(4) MONITORING.—For any modernization activities carried out by the non-Federal interest pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall regularly monitor and audit such activities to ensure that—

(A) the modernization activities are carried out in accordance with this section; and

(B) the cost of the modernization activities is reasonable.

(5) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of section 3142 of title 40, United States Code shall apply to any modernization activities undertaken under or pursuant to this section, either by the Secretary or the non-Federal interest.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—

(1) ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—Before a non-Federal interest initiates modernization activities for an authorized project pursuant to this subsection (c)(1)(B), the non-Federal interest shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary, under section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b), that requires the modernization activities to be carried out in accordance with—

(I) a plan approved by the Secretary; and

(II) any other terms and conditions specified by the Secretary in the agreement.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A written agreement under clause (i) shall provide that the non-Federal interest shall comply with the same legal and technical requirements that would apply if the modernization activities were carried out by the Secretary, including all mitigation required to offset environmental impacts of the activities, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) ALIGNMENT WITH ONGOING ACTIVITIES.—A written agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions that, to the maximum extent practicable, align modernization activities under this section with ongoing operations and maintenance activities for the applicable authorized project.

(C) INDEMNIFICATION.—As part of a written agreement under subparagraph (A), the non-Federal interest shall agree to hold and save the United States free from liability for any and all damage that arises from the modernization activities carried out by the non-Federal interest pursuant to this section.

(2) ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SECRETARY.—For modernization activities to be carried out by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A), the non-Federal interest shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary, containing such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may reimburse a non-Federal interest for the costs of modernization activities carried out by the non-Federal interest pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (d), or for funds provided to the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(A), if—

(A) the non-Federal interest complies with the agreement entered into under subsection (d); and

(B) with respect to modernization activities carried out by the non-Federal interest pursuant to the agreement, the Secretary determines that the non-Federal interest complied with all applicable Federal requirements in carrying out the modernization activities.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may only reimburse a non-Federal interest under paragraph (1) for costs of construction that would otherwise be paid from amounts appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury pursuant to section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2212).

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects the responsibility of the Secretary for the operations and maintenance of the inland waterway system, as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act, including the responsibility of the Secretary for the operations and maintenance costs for any covered project after the modernization activities are completed pursuant to this section;

(2) prohibits or prevents the use of Federal funds for operations and maintenance of the inland waterway system or any authorized project within the inland waterway system; or

(3) prohibits or prevents the use of Federal funds for construction or major rehabilitation activities within the inland waterway system or for any authorized project within the inland waterway system.

(g) **NOTIFICATION.**—If a non-Federal interest notifies the Secretary that the non-Federal interest intends to carry out modernization activities for an authorized project, or separable element thereof, pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall provide written notice to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives concerning the intent of the non-Federal interest.

(h) **SUNSET.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority of the Secretary to enter into an agreement under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY.**—The termination of authority under paragraph (1) shall not extinguish the eligibility of a non-Federal interest to seek reimbursement under subsection (e).

#### **SEC. 160. DEFINITION OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance defining the term “economically disadvantaged community” for the purposes of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In defining the term “economically disadvantaged community” under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, utilize the criteria under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161), to the extent that such criteria are applicable in relation to the development of water resources development projects.

(c) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—In developing the guidance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide notice and an opportunity for public comment.

#### **SEC. 161. STUDIES OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or, upon the written approval of the Secretary that the modifications are consistent with the authorized purposes of the project, undertake a feasibility study on modifications to a water resources development project constructed by the Corps of Engineers,” after “water resources development project”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “for feasibility studies” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “for the formulation of feasibility studies of water resources development projects undertaken by non-Federal interests to—

“(A) ensure that any feasibility study with respect to which the Secretary submits an assessment to Congress under subsection (c) complies with all of the requirements that would apply to a feasibility study undertaken by the Secretary; and

“(B) provide sufficient information for the formulation of the studies, including processes and procedures related to reviews and assistance under subsection (e).”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **TIMING.**—The Secretary may not submit to Congress an assessment of a feasibility study under this section until such time as the Secretary—

“(A) determines that the feasibility study complies with all of the requirements that would apply to a feasibility study undertaken by the Secretary; and

“(B) completes all of the Federal analyses, reviews, and compliance processes under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), that would be required with respect to the proposed project if the Secretary had undertaken the feasibility study.

“(3) **INITIATION OF REVIEW.**—

“(A) **REQUEST.**—

“(i) **SUBMISSION.**—The non-Federal interest may submit to the Secretary a request that the Secretary initiate the analyses, reviews, and compliance processes described in paragraph (2)(B) with respect to the proposed project prior to the non-Federal interest’s submission of a feasibility study under subsection (a)(1).

“(ii) **EFFECT.**—Receipt by the Secretary of a request submitted under clause (i) shall be considered the receipt of a proposal or application that will lead to a major Federal action that is subject to the requirements of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) that would be required if the Secretary were to undertake the feasibility study.

“(B) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 10 days after the Secretary receives a request under this paragraph, the Secretary shall begin the required analyses, reviews, and compliance processes.

“(4) **NOTIFICATION.**—Upon receipt of a request under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of the request and a timeline for completion of

the required analyses, reviews, and compliance processes.

“(5) **STATUS UPDATES.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request under paragraph (3), and every 30 days thereafter until the Secretary submits an assessment under subsection (c) for the applicable feasibility study, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the non-Federal interest of the status of the Secretary’s required analyses, reviews, and compliance processes.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “after the date of receipt of a feasibility study of a project under subsection (a)(1)” and insert “after the completion of review of a feasibility study under subsection (b)”; and

(B) by striking “a report” and inserting “an assessment”.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue revised guidelines under section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231) to implement the amendments made by this section.

(c) **HOLD HARMLESS.**—

(1) **ONE-YEAR WINDOW.**—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to any feasibility study submitted to the Secretary under section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231) during the one-year period prior to the date of enactment of this section.

(2) **2020 PROJECTS.**—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to any project authorized by section 403 of this Act.

#### **SEC. 162. LEVERAGING FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INCREASED WATER SUPPLY.**

Section 118(i) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (43 U.S.C. 390b-2(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary may” and inserting the following:

“(1) **CONTRIBUTED FUNDS FOR CORPS PROJECTS.**—The Secretary may”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **CONTRIBUTED FUNDS FOR OTHER FEDERAL RESERVOIR PROJECTS.**—The Secretary is authorized to receive and expend funds from a non-Federal interest to formulate, review, or revise operational documents, pursuant to a proposal submitted in accordance subsection (a), for any reservoir for which the Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations for the use of storage allocated for flood control or navigation pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (33 U.S.C. 709).”.

#### **SEC. 163. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED, MANMADE, FLAMMABLE MATERIALS ON CORPS PROPERTY.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should, using existing authorities, prioritize the removal, from facilities and lands of the Corps of Engineers in regions that are urban and arid, of materials that are manmade, flammable, unauthorized to be present, and determined by the Secretary to pose a fire risk that is a threat to public safety.

#### **SEC. 164. ENHANCED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall review the master plan and shoreline management plan for any lake described in section 3134 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1142; 130 Stat. 1671) for the purpose of identifying structures or other improvements that are owned by the Secretary and are suitable for enhanced development, if—

(1) the master plan and shoreline management plan of the lake have been updated since January 1, 2013; and

(2) the applicable district office of the Corps of Engineers has received a written request for such a review from any entity.

(b) DEFINITION OF ENHANCED DEVELOPMENT.—In this section, the term “enhanced development” means the use, for non-water-dependent commercial or hospitality industry purposes or for residential or recreational purposes, of an existing structure or other improvement.

(c) DIVESTMENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that identifies—

(A) any structure or other improvement owned by the Secretary that—

(i) has been identified as suitable for enhanced development pursuant to subsection (a);

(ii) the Secretary determines the divestment of which would not adversely affect the Corps of Engineers operation of the lake at which the structure or other improvement is located; and

(iii) a non-Federal interest has offered to purchase from the Secretary; and

(B) the fair market value of any structure or other improvement identified under subparagraph (A); and

(2) develop a plan to divest any structure or other improvement identified under paragraph (1)(A), at fair market value, to the applicable non-Federal interest.

#### SEC. 165. CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAMS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM FOR CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROJECTS IN SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a pilot program, in accordance with this subsection, for carrying out a project under a continuing authority program for an economically disadvantaged community.

(2) PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROGRAM.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) publish a notice in the Federal Register that requests non-Federal interest proposals for a project under a continuing authority program for an economically disadvantaged community; and

(B) review such proposals and select a total of 10 projects, taking into consideration geographic diversity among the selected projects.

(3) COST SHARE.—Notwithstanding the cost share authorized for the applicable continuing authority program, the Federal share of the cost of a project selected under paragraph (2) shall be 100 percent.

(4) SUNSET.—The authority to commence pursuant to this subsection a project selected under paragraph (2) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “continuing authority program” has the meaning given that term in section 7001(c)(1)(D) of Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d).

(b) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION.—Notwithstanding section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 701r), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$25,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(2) STORM AND HURRICANE RESTORATION AND IMPACT MINIMIZATION PROGRAM.—Notwith-

standing section 3(c) of the Act of August 13, 1946 (33 U.S.C. 426g(c)), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(3) SMALL RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding section 107(a) of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 577(a)), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$63,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(4) REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT.—Notwithstanding section 204(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(g)), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$63,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(5) SMALL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$69,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(6) AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—Notwithstanding section 206(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330(f)), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$63,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(7) REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS; CLEARING CHANNELS.—Notwithstanding section 2 of the Act of August 28, 1937 (33 U.S.C. 701g), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

(8) PROJECT MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT.—Notwithstanding section 1135(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2309a(h)), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out such section \$50,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

#### TITLE II—STUDIES AND REPORTS

##### SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF PROPOSED FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress:

(1) SULPHUR RIVER, ARKANSAS AND TEXAS.—Project for ecosystem restoration, Sulphur River, Arkansas and Texas.

(2) CABLE CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood risk management, water supply, and related benefits, Cable Creek, California.

(3) OROVILLE DAM, CALIFORNIA.—Project for dam safety improvements, Oroville Dam, California.

(4) RIO HONDO CHANNEL, CALIFORNIA.—Project for ecosystem restoration, Rio Hondo Channel, San Gabriel River, California.

(5) SHINGLE CREEK AND KISSIMMEE RIVER, FLORIDA.—Project for ecosystem restoration and water storage, Shingle Creek and Kissimmee River, Osceola County, Florida.

(6) ST. JOHN’S RIVER AND LAKE JESUP, FLORIDA.—Project for ecosystem restoration, St. John’s River and Lake Jesup, Florida.

(7) CHICAGO AREA WATERWAYS SYSTEM, ILLINOIS.—Project for ecosystem restoration, recreation, and other purposes, Illinois River, Chicago River, Calumet River, Grand Calumet River, Little Calumet River, and other waterways in the vicinity of Chicago, Illinois.

(8) FOX RIVER, ILLINOIS.—Project for flood risk management, Fox River, Illinois.

(9) LOWER MISSOURI RIVER, KANSAS.—Project for bank stabilization and navigation, Lower Missouri River, Sioux City, Kansas.

(10) TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LOUISIANA.—Project for flood risk management, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

(11) NEWBURY AND NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS.—Project for coastal storm risk management, Newbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts.

(12) ESCATAWPA RIVER BASIN, MISSISSIPPI.—Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Escatawpa River, Jackson County, Mississippi.

(13) LONG BEACH, BAY ST. LOUIS AND MISSISSIPPI SOUND, MISSISSIPPI.—Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and flood risk management, Long Beach, Bay St. Louis and Mississippi Sound, Mississippi.

(14) TALLAHOMA AND TALLAHALA CREEKS, MISSISSIPPI.—Project for flood risk management, Leaf River, Jones County, Mississippi.

(15) LOWER MISSOURI RIVER, MISSOURI.—Project for navigation, Lower Missouri River, Missouri.

(16) LOWER OSAGE RIVER BASIN, MISSOURI.—Project for ecosystem restoration, Lower Osage River Basin, Missouri.

(17) WYATT, MISSOURI.—Project for flood risk management, P. Fields Pump Station, Wyatt, Missouri.

(18) UPPER BASIN AND STONY BROOK (GREEN BROOK SUB-BASIN), RARITAN RIVER BASIN, NEW JERSEY.—Reevaluation of the Upper Basin and Stony Brook portions of the project for flood control, Green Brook Sub-basin, Raritan River Basin, New Jersey, authorized by section 401 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4119), including the evaluation of nonstructural measures to achieve the project purpose.

(19) WADING RIVER CREEK, NEW YORK.—Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, flood risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, Wading River Creek, New York.

(20) LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN (TURNING BASIN), OREGON AND WASHINGTON.—Project to improve and add turning basins for the project for navigation, Columbia River Channel, Oregon and Washington, authorized by section 101(b)(13) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 280).

(21) WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.—Project for flood risk management and levee rehabilitation, greater Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

(22) CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Project for tidal- and inland-related flood risk management, Charleston, South Carolina.

(23) CHOCOLATE BAYOU, TEXAS.—Project for flood risk management, Chocolate Bayou, Texas.

(24) HOUSTON-GALVESTON, TEXAS.—Project for navigation, Houston-Galveston, Texas.

(25) PORT ARTHUR AND ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS.—Project for flood risk management, Port Arthur and Orange County, Texas, including construction of improvements to interior drainage.

(26) PORT OF VICTORIA, TEXAS.—Project for flood risk management, Port of Victoria, Texas.

(27) VIRGINIA BEACH AND VICINITY, VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.—Project for coastal storm risk management, Virginia Beach and vicinity, Virginia and North Carolina.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary shall consider any study carried out by the Secretary to formulate the project for flood risk management, Port Arthur and Orange County, Texas, identified in subsection (a)(25) to be a continuation of the study carried out for Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas, authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, approved June 23, 2004, and funded by title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, under the heading “CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL—DEPARTMENT OF

THE ARMY—CONSTRUCTION” (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 76).

**SEC. 202. EXPEDITED COMPLETIONS.**

(a) FEASIBILITY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a feasibility study for each of the following projects, and if the Secretary determines that the project is justified in a completed report, may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project:

(1) Project for navigation, Florence, Alabama.

(2) Project to modify the project for navigation, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

(3) Project for shoreline stabilization, Aunu'u Harbor, American Samoa.

(4) Project for shoreline stabilization, Tutuila Island, American Samoa.

(5) Project for flood risk management, Lower Santa Cruz River, Arizona.

(6) Project for flood risk management, Rio de Flag, Arizona.

(7) Project for flood risk management, Tonto Creek, Gila River, Arizona.

(8) Project for flood control, water conservation, and related purposes, Coyote Valley Dam, California.

(9) Project for shoreline stabilization, Del Mar Bluffs, San Diego County, California, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on April 22, 1999 (docket number 2598).

(10) Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Del Rosa Channel, city of San Bernardino, California.

(11) Project for flood risk management, Lower Cache Creek, California.

(12) Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Mission-Zanja Channel, cities of San Bernardino and Redlands, California.

(13) Project for flood risk management, Napa, California.

(14) Project for shoreline protection, Oceanside, California, authorized pursuant to section 414 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2636; 121 Stat. 1176).

(15) Project for ecosystem restoration and water conservation, Prado Basin, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, California.

(16) Project for water conservation and water supply, Redbank and Fancher Creeks, California.

(17) Project for coastal storm damage reduction, San Diego County shoreline, California.

(18) Project to modify the project for navigation, San Francisco Bay to Stockton, California.

(19) Project for flood risk management, San Francisquito Creek, California.

(20) Project to modify the Seven Oaks Dam, California, portion of the project for flood control, Santa Ana River Mainstem, California, authorized by section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4113; 101 Stat. 1329–111; 104 Stat. 4611; 110 Stat. 3713; 121 Stat. 1115), to include water conservation as an authorized purpose.

(21) Project for coastal storm damage reduction, Southern California.

(22) Project for water storage, Halligan Dam, Colorado.

(23) Project for flood risk management, East Hartford Levee System, Connecticut.

(24) Project for flood risk management, Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut.

(25) Project for navigation, Guilford Harbor and Sluice Channel, Connecticut.

(26) Project for flood risk management, Hartford Levee System, Connecticut.

(27) Project for ecosystem restoration, Central and Southern Florida Project Canal 111 (C–111), South Dade County, Florida.

(28) Project for ecosystem restoration, Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

(29) Project for ecosystem restoration, Western Everglades, Florida.

(30) Project for flood risk management, Hanapepe River, Kauai, Hawaii.

(31) Project for flood risk management, Waiupe Stream, Oahu, Hawaii.

(32) Project for flood risk management, Waimea River, Kauai, Hawaii, being carried out under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(33) Project for comprehensive hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and shoreline erosion protection, Chicago, Illinois, authorized by section 101(a)(12) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3664; 113 Stat. 302).

(34) Project for flood risk management, Wheaton, DuPage County, Illinois.

(35) Project for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Blue River Basin, Kansas City, Kansas, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on September 24, 2008 (docket number 2803).

(36) Project for flood control, Amite River and Tributaries east of the Mississippi River, Louisiana.

(37) Project for coastal storm risk management, Upper Barataria Basin, Louisiana.

(38) Project for navigation, Kent Narrows and Chester River, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

(39) Project to replace the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

(40) Project for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Lower St. Croix River, Minnesota, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on September 25, 2002 (docket number 2705).

(41) Project to deepen the project for navigation, Gulfport Harbor, Mississippi, authorized by section 202(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4094).

(42) Project for navigation, Shark River, New Jersey.

(43) Project for navigation, Goldsmith Inlet, New York.

(44) Project for navigation, Lake Montauk Harbor, New York.

(45) Project for rehabilitation of Lock E–32, Erie Canal, Pittsford, New York.

(46) Project for navigation and shoreline stabilization, Reel Point Preserve, New York, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on May 2, 2007 (docket number 2775).

(47) Project for flood risk management, Rondout Creek-Walkkill River Watershed, New York, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on May 2, 2007 (docket number 2776).

(48) Project for ecosystem restoration and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Spring Creek South (Howard Beach), Queens, New York.

(49) Project for ecosystem restoration, Hood River at the confluence with the Columbia River, Oregon.

(50) Project to resolve increased silting and shoaling adjacent to the Federal channel, Port of Bandon, Coquille River, Oregon.

(51) Project for flood control, 42nd Street Levee, Springfield, Oregon, being carried out under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(52) Project for construction of Tribal housing authorized by title IV of Public Law

100–581 (102 Stat. 2944), Oregon and Washington.

(53) Project for flood risk management, Dorchester County, South Carolina.

(54) Project for navigation, Georgetown Harbor, South Carolina.

(55) Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

(56) Project to modify the projects for navigation and other purposes, Old Hickory Lock and Dam and the Cordell Hull Dam and Reservoir, Cumberland River, Tennessee, authorized by the Act of July 24, 1946 (chapter 595, 60 Stat. 636), to add flood risk management as an authorized purpose.

(57) Project for flood risk management, Buffalo Bayou, Texas.

(58) Project for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and related purposes, Lower Rio Grande River, Cameron County, Texas, carried out pursuant to the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on May 21, 2003 (docket number 2710).

(59) Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and shoreline erosion protection, Bolongo Bay, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands.

(60) Project for water supply and ecosystem restoration, Howard Hanson Dam, Washington.

(61) Project for ecosystem restoration, Puget Sound, Washington.

(62) Project for navigation, Seattle Harbor, Washington.

(63) Project for navigation, Tacoma Harbor, Washington.

(64) Project for dam safety remediation, Bluestone Dam, West Virginia.

(65) Project to modify the project for navigation, Milwaukee Harbor, Wisconsin.

(b) POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall expedite completion of a post-authorization change report for the following projects:

(1) Project for ecosystem restoration, Tres Rios, Arizona.

(2) Project for flood risk management, Des Moines Levee System, including Birdland Park Levee, Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, Des Moines, Iowa.

(c) WATERSHED AND RIVER BASIN ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of an assessment under section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2267a) for the following:

(1) Kansas River Basin, Kansas.

(2) Merrimack River Basin, Massachusetts.

(3) Pascagoula River Basin, Mississippi.

(4) Tuscarawas River Basin, Ohio.

(5) Lower Fox River Basin, Wisconsin.

(6) Upper Fox River Basin and Wolf River Basin, Wisconsin.

(d) DISPOSITION STUDIES.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a disposition study, carried out under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), for the project for Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake), California.

(e) REALLOCATION STUDIES.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a study for the reallocation of water supply storage, carried out in accordance with section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b), for the following:

(1) Aquilla Lake, Texas.

(2) Lake Whitney, Texas.

(f) ECONOMIC REEVALUATION REPORT.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the economic reevaluation report for the navigation and sustainability program carried out pursuant to title VIII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 652 note).

**SEC. 203. EXPEDITED MODIFICATIONS OF EXISTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the following feasibility studies, as modified by this section, and if the Secretary determines that a project that is the subject of the feasibility study is justified in a completed report, may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project:

(1) SAN FRANCISCO BAY, CALIFORNIA.—The study for flood risk reduction authorized by section 142 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2930), is modified to authorize the Secretary to—

(A) investigate the ocean shoreline of San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties for the purposes of providing flood protection against tidal and fluvial flooding;

(B) with respect to the bay and ocean shorelines of San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties, investigate measures to adapt to rising sea levels; and

(C) with respect to the bay and ocean shorelines, and streams running to the bay and ocean shorelines, of San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties, investigate the effects of proposed flood protection and other measures or improvements on—

- (i) the local economy;
- (ii) habitat restoration, enhancement, or expansion efforts or opportunities;
- (iii) public infrastructure protection and improvement;
- (iv) stormwater runoff capacity and control measures, including those that may mitigate flooding;
- (v) erosion of beaches and coasts; and
- (vi) any other measures or improvements relevant to adapting to rising sea levels.

(2) SACRAMENTO RIVER, SOUTHERN SUTTER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—The study for flood control and allied purposes for the Sacramento River Basin, authorized by section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1197), is modified to authorize the Secretary to conduct a study for flood risk management, southern Sutter County between the Sacramento River and Sutter Bypass, California.

(3) SALTON SEA, CALIFORNIA.—In carrying out the program to implement projects to restore the Salton Sea, California, authorized by section 3032 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1113; 130 Stat. 1677), the Secretary is authorized to carry out a study for the construction of a perimeter lake, or a northern or southern subset thereof, for the Salton Sea, California.

(4) NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY HARBOR AND TRIBUTARIES, NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.—The study for flood and storm damage reduction for the New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries project, authorized by the Act of June 15, 1955 (chapter 140, 69 Stat. 132), and being carried out pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2), is modified to require the Secretary to—

(A) evaluate and address the impacts of low-frequency precipitation and sea-level rise on the study area;

(B) consult with affected communities; and

(C) ensure the study is carried out in accordance with section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c).

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—Where appropriate, the Secretary may use the authority provided by section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a) to carry out this section.

**SEC. 204. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS; FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS.**

(a) ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, during the period

during which a non-Federal interest may submit a proposal to be considered for inclusion in an annual report pursuant to section 7001(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d(b)), the Secretary is authorized to provide assistance in accordance with section 1104(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2282d note) to the non-Federal interest of a project proposal described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROJECT PROPOSALS DESCRIBED.—A project proposal referred to in paragraph (1) is a proposal for any of the following:

(A) A feasibility study for a fish passage for ecosystem restoration, Lower Alabama River, Alabama.

(B) A feasibility study for dredged material disposal management activities, Port of Florence, Alabama.

(C) A feasibility study for a project for flood risk management, Sikorsky Memorial Airport, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

(D) A feasibility study for a project to design and construct the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, a multiuse trail on Federal land between Torrington and Derby, Connecticut.

(E) A feasibility study for a project for coastal and flood risk management, Stratford, Connecticut.

(F) A feasibility study for projects for flood risk management, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

(G) The project for flood risk management, Bloomington, Indiana.

(H) The project for flood risk management, Gary, Indiana.

(I) Modification of the project for beach erosion and hurricane protection, Grand Isle, Louisiana, to include periodic beach nourishment.

(J) A feasibility study for a project for flood risk management, Cataouatche Subbasin area of the west bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

(K) A feasibility study for projects for flood risk management and storm damage reduction in the Hoey's Basin area of the east bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, including a study of the "pump to the river" concept.

(L) A feasibility study for a project for flood risk management, Hoosic River, Massachusetts.

(M) Modification of the project for navigation, River Rouge, Michigan.

(N) A project to extend dredging of the South Haven Harbor, Michigan, to include the former turning basin.

(O) Modification of the project for flood risk management, Upper Rouge River, Wayne County, Michigan.

(P) A project for aquatic and riparian ecosystem restoration, Line Creek, Riverside, Missouri.

(Q) A feasibility study for projects for ecosystem restoration, Bangert Island, St. Charles, Missouri, related to channels and aquatic habitats.

(R) A study of the resiliency of the Allegheny Reservoir, New York, in consultation with the Seneca Nation.

(S) A feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the tainter gates and guard gate, Caughdenoy Dam, New York, including an evaluation of the rehabilitation work necessary to extend the service life of those structures, such as—

- (i) improvements to the hydraulic efficiency of the gate systems;
- (ii) improvements to the concrete foundation and gate support structures; and
- (iii) any other improvements the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(T) A project for repairs to the West Pier and West Barrier Bar, Little Sodus Bay Harbor, Cayuga County, New York.

(U) A project for repair of a sheet pile wall and east breakwater, Great Sodus Bay, New York.

(V) A feasibility study for the project for navigation, Port of Oswego, New York.

(W) A feasibility study for potential projects for the rehabilitation of the Glens Falls Feeder Canal, which begins at the Feeder Dam intersection with the Hudson River in Queensbury, New York, and runs to the confluence of the Old Champlain Canal in Kingsbury, New York.

(X) A feasibility study to determine whether the purchase of additional flood easements, changes in lake level management, additional levee infrastructure, or implementation of other flood risk management or containment mechanisms in the Arkansas River Basin, Oklahoma, would benefit local communities by reducing flood risks around water resources development projects of the Corps of Engineers in a range of different flood scenarios.

(Y) A feasibility study on increasing the frequency and depth of dredging assistance from the Corps of Engineers at the Port of Astoria, located at the mouth of the Columbia River, Oregon.

(b) FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary is authorized to review a project proposal described in paragraph (2) and issue a report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on whether a modification to the project that is the subject of the proposal is necessary and recommended to carry out the authorized purposes of such project.

(2) PROJECT PROPOSALS DESCRIBED.—A project proposal referred to in paragraph (1) is a proposal to modify any of the following:

(A) The project for environmental infrastructure, City of Sheffield, Alabama, authorized pursuant to section 219(f)(78) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1258; 130 Stat. 1687).

(B) The project for environmental infrastructure, Calaveras County, California, under section 219(f)(86) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1259).

(C) The project for environmental infrastructure, Charlotte County, Florida, authorized by section 219(f)(121) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1261).

(D) The Mississippi River and Tributaries project authorized by the first section of the Act of May 15, 1928 (33 U.S.C. 702a), to include the portion of the Ouachita River Levee System at and below Monroe, Louisiana, to Caldwell Parish, Louisiana.

(E) The project for environmental infrastructure, Central New Mexico, authorized by section 593 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 380; 119 Stat. 2255).

(F) The project for environmental infrastructure, Village of Whitehall, New York, authorized pursuant to section 542 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2671; 121 Stat. 1150).

(G) The project for environmental infrastructure, Ohio and North Dakota, authorized by section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 383; 121 Stat. 1140; 121 Stat. 1944).

(H) The project for flood risk management and water supply, Tenkiller Ferry Lake, Arkansas River Basin, Oklahoma, authorized by section 4 of the Act of June 28, 1938 (chapter 795, 52 Stat. 1218), to modify water storage to provide for a sufficient quantity of water supply storage space in the inactive

pool storage to support the fishery downstream from Tenkiller Reservoir.

(I) The project for environmental infrastructure, Athens, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(254) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(J) The project for environmental infrastructure, Blaine, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(255) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(K) The project for environmental infrastructure, Claiborne County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(256) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(L) The project for environmental infrastructure, Giles County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(257) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(M) The project for environmental infrastructure, Grainger County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(258) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(N) The project for environmental infrastructure, Hamilton County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(259) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(O) The project for environmental infrastructure, Harrogate, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(260) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(P) The project for environmental infrastructure, Johnson County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(261) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(Q) The project for environmental infrastructure, Knoxville, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(262) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(R) The project for environmental infrastructure, Lewis, Lawrence, and Wayne Counties, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(264) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1268).

(S) The project for environmental infrastructure, Nashville, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(263) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1267).

(T) The project for environmental infrastructure, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(265) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1268).

(U) The project for environmental infrastructure, Plateau Utility District, Morgan County, Tennessee, authorized by section 219(f)(266) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1268).

(V) The authorized funding level for critical restoration projects, Lake Champlain watershed, Vermont and New York, authorized by section 542 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2671; 121 Stat. 1150).

(W) The project for environmental infrastructure, Eastern Shore and Southwest Virginia, authorized by section 219(f)(10) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1255).

#### SEC. 205. SELMA, ALABAMA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—

(1) provides an update on the study for flood risk management and riverbank stabilization, Selma, Alabama, authorized by resolutions of the Committees on Public Works and Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representatives on June 7, 1961, and April 28, 1936, respectively, the completion of which the Secretary was required to expedite by section 1203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3803); and

(2) identifies project alternatives necessary to—

(A) assure the preservation of cultural and historic values associated with national historic landmarks within the study area; and

(B) provide flood risk management for economically disadvantaged communities within the study area.

#### SEC. 206. REPORT ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS FACILITIES IN APPALACHIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in collaboration with the Appalachian Regional Commission established by section 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that identifies each Corps of Engineers facility that—

(1) is located within a distressed county or an at-risk county (as designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 14526(a)(1), of title 40, United States Code), including in counties that are experiencing high unemployment or job loss; and

(2) could be improved for purposes of economic development, recreation, or other uses.

(b) HYDROPOWER FACILITIES.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a) the identification of any existing nonpowered dams, located within a distressed county or an at-risk county, with the potential to be used to test, evaluate, pilot, demonstrate, or deploy hydropower or energy storage technologies.

(2) INFORMATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may use any information developed pursuant to section 1206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3806).

(3) COORDINATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with any relevant National Laboratories.

#### SEC. 207. ADDITIONAL STUDIES UNDER NORTH ATLANTIC COAST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of a project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction for any major metropolitan area located in the study area for the comprehensive study authorized under the heading “Department of the Army—Corps of Engineers—Civil—Investigations” under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–2) that was not included in a high-risk focus area identified in the study.

(b) TREATMENT.—A study carried out under subsection (a) shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive study described in that subsection.

#### SEC. 208. SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY.

Section 1204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1685) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, and not less frequently than annually thereafter until 2025, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public

Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of the study under subsection (a), on a State-by-State basis, including information on the engagement of the Corps of Engineers with non-Federal interests, including detailed lists of all meetings and decision outcomes associated with those engagements.”.

#### SEC. 209. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER, YOLO BYPASS, CALIFORNIA.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Sacramento River in the vicinity of the Yolo Bypass System, California, to identify actions to be undertaken by the Secretary for the comprehensive management of the Yolo Bypass System for the purposes of flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, hydropower, and recreation.

(b) CONSULTATION AND USE OF EXISTING DATA.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Governor of the State of California, applicable Federal, State, and local agencies, non-Federal interests, the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough Partnership, and other stakeholders.

(2) USE OF EXISTING DATA AND PRIOR STUDIES.—To the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, the Secretary may—

(A) make use of existing data provided to the Secretary by the entities identified in paragraph (1); and

(B) incorporate—

(i) relevant information from prior studies and projects carried out by the Secretary within the study area; and

(ii) the latest technical data and scientific approaches to changing hydrologic and climatic conditions.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary may develop a recommendation to Congress for—

(A) the construction of a water resources development project;

(B) the structural or operational modification of an existing water resources development project;

(C) additional monitoring of, or adaptive management measures to carry out with respect to, existing water resources development projects, to respond to changing hydrologic and climatic conditions; or

(D) geographic areas within the Yolo Bypass System for additional study by the Secretary.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Any feasibility study carried out pursuant to a recommendation under paragraph (1)(D) shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive study authorized under subsection (a).

(d) COMPLETION OF STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the results of the comprehensive study conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations developed under subsection (c);

(2) any additional, site-specific areas within the Yolo Bypass System where additional study for flood risk management or ecosystem restoration projects is recommended by the Secretary; and

(3) any interim actions relating to existing water resources development projects undertaken by the Secretary during the study period.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) YOLO BYPASS SYSTEM.—The term “Yolo Bypass System” means the system of weirs, levees, bypass structures, and other water resources development projects in California’s Sacramento River Valley, extending from the Fremont Weir near Woodland, California, to the Sacramento River near Rio Vista, California, authorized pursuant to section 2 of the Act of March 1, 1917 (chapter 144; 39 Stat. 949).

(2) YOLO BYPASS AND CACHE SLOUGH PARTNERSHIP.—The term “Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough Partnership” means the group of parties to the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough Memorandum of Understanding, effective May 2016, regarding collaboration and cooperation in the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough region.

**SEC. 210. LAKE OKEECHOBEE REGULATION SCHEDULE, FLORIDA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the review of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule pursuant to section 1106 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3773), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the implications of prohibiting releases from Lake Okeechobee through the S-308 and S-80 lock and dam structures, and evaluate separately the implications of prohibiting high volume releases through the S-77, S-78, and S-79 lock and dam structures, on the operation of the lake in accordance with authorized purposes and seek to minimize unnecessary releases to coastal estuaries; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the ongoing efforts of Federal and State agencies responsible for monitoring, forecasting, and notification of cyanobacteria levels in Lake Okeechobee.

(b) MONTHLY REPORT.—Each month, the Secretary shall make public a report, which may be based on the Water Management Daily Operational Reports, disclosing the volumes of water deliveries to or discharges from Lake Okeechobee & Vicinity, Water Conservation Area I, Water Conservation Area II, Water Conservation Area III, East Coast Canals, and the South Dade Conveyance. Such report shall be aggregated and reported in a format designed for the general public, using maps or other widely understood communication tools.

(c) EFFECT.—In carrying out the evaluation under subsection (a)(1), nothing shall be construed to authorize any new purpose for the management of Lake Okeechobee or authorize the Secretary to affect any existing authorized purpose, including flood protection and management of Lake Okeechobee to provide water supply for all authorized users.

**SEC. 211. GREAT LAKES COASTAL RESILIENCY STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the comprehensive assessment of water resources needs for the Great Lakes System under section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2267a), as required by section 1219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3811), the Secretary shall—

(1) taking into account recent high lake levels within the Great Lakes, assess and make recommendations to Congress on—

(A) coastal storm and flood risk management measures, including measures that use natural features and nature-based features, as those terms are defined in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a);

(B) operation and maintenance of the Great Lakes Navigation System, as such term is defined in section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238);

(C) ecosystem protection and restoration;

(D) the prevention and control of invasive species and the effects of invasive species; and

(E) recreation associated with water resources development projects;

(2) prioritize actions necessary to protect critical public infrastructure, communities, and critical natural or cultural resources; and

(3) to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, utilize existing data provided to the Secretary by Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, and other stakeholders, including data obtained through other Federal programs.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS; ADDITIONAL STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the comprehensive assessment described in subsection (a), the Secretary may make a recommendation to Congress for—

(A) the construction of a water resources development project;

(B) the structural or operational modification of an existing water resources development project;

(C) additional monitoring of, or adaptive management measures to carry out with respect to, existing water resources development projects, to respond to changing hydrologic and climatic conditions; or

(D) geographic areas within the Great Lakes System for additional study by the Secretary.

(2) FOCUS AREAS.—In addition to carrying out subsection (a), to contribute to the comprehensive assessment described in such subsection, the Secretary is authorized to conduct feasibility studies for—

(A) the project for coastal storm resiliency, Lake Ontario shoreline, New York; and

(B) the project for coastal storm resiliency, Chicago shoreline, Illinois.

(3) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Any feasibility study carried out pursuant to this subsection, including pursuant to a recommendation under paragraph (1)(D), shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive assessment described in subsection (a).

(c) EXEMPTION FROM MAXIMUM STUDY COST AND DURATION LIMITATIONS.—Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c) shall not apply to any study recommended under subsection (b)(1)(D) or carried out pursuant to subsection (b)(2).

**SEC. 212. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF RESTORATION IN THE LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Task Force established by section 7004 of Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1272) shall submit to Congress a report that summarizes the activities and recommendations of the Task Force, including—

(1) policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, and activities undertaken for addressing conservation, protection, restoration, and maintenance of the coastal Louisiana ecosystem; and

(2) financial participation by each agency represented on the Task Force in conserving, protecting, restoring, and maintaining the coastal Louisiana ecosystem.

**SEC. 213. LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

(a) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and pursuant to subsection (d)(1)(A), shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Lower Mississippi River basin, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the Gulf of Mexico, to identify recommendations of

actions to be undertaken by the Secretary, under existing authorities or after congressional authorization, for the comprehensive management of the basin for the purposes of—

(A) hurricane and storm damage reduction, flood risk management, structural and non-structural flood control, and floodplain management strategies;

(B) navigation;

(C) ecosystem and environmental restoration;

(D) water supply;

(E) hydropower production;

(F) recreation; and

(G) other purposes as determined by the Secretary.

(2) DEVELOPMENT.—In conducting the comprehensive study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall investigate—

(A) the construction of new water resources development projects;

(B) structural and operational modifications to completed water resources development projects within the study area;

(C) projects proposed in the comprehensive coastal protection master plan entitled “Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast”, prepared by the State of Louisiana and accepted by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (including any subsequent amendments or revisions), including—

(i) Ama sediment diversion;

(ii) Union freshwater diversion;

(iii) increase Atchafalaya flow to Terrebonne; and

(iv) Manchac Landbridge diversion;

(D) natural features and nature-based features, including levee setbacks and instream and floodplain restoration;

(E) fish and wildlife habitat resources, including in the Mississippi Sound Estuary, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, the Breton Sound, the Barataria Basin, the Terrebonne Basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, the Vermilion-Teche Basin, and other outlets of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project;

(F) mitigation of adverse impacts from operations of flood control structures to the Mississippi Sound Estuary, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, the Breton Sound, the Barataria Basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, and other outlets of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project;

(G) the effects of dredging and river-bottom elevation changes on drainage efficiency;

(H) the economic impacts of existing practices, including such impacts on coastal resources;

(I) monitoring requirements, including as near-real time monitoring as practicable, and adaptive management measures to respond to changing conditions over time;

(J) the division of responsibilities among the Federal Government and non-Federal interests with respect to the purposes described in paragraph (1); and

(K) other matters, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) CONSULTATION AND USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, non-Federal interests, and other stakeholders, and, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, make use of existing data provided to the Secretary by such entities or from any relevant multistate monitoring programs.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop actionable recommendations to Congress, including for—

(1) the construction of new water resources development projects to improve the maximum effective river resource use and control;

(2) the structural or operational modification of completed water resources development projects;

(3) such additional monitoring of, or adaptive management measures to carry out with respect to, completed water resources development projects, to respond to changing conditions;

(4) improving the efficiency of operational and maintenance dredging within the study area;

(5) whether changes are necessary to the Mississippi River and Tributaries project within the study area;

(6) other Federal and non-Federal action, where appropriate; and

(7) follow-up studies and data collection and monitoring to be carried out by the relevant Federal or State agency.

(d) COMPLETION OF STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the final report under paragraph (2) is submitted, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report detailing—

(A) any interim actions relating to water resources development projects within the study area undertaken by the Secretary under existing authority; and

(B) any recommendations developed under subsection (c).

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a final report detailing the results of the comprehensive study required by this section, including the recommendations developed under subsection (c).

(3) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1001(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c(a)) shall not apply to the study carried out by the Secretary under this section.

(e) FURTHER ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the comprehensive study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall carry out activities in geographic areas that warrant additional analysis by the Corps of Engineers, including feasibility studies.

(2) TREATMENT.—A feasibility study carried out under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive study conducted under subsection (a).

(f) REQUIREMENTS.—The comprehensive study conducted under subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with the authorities for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES PROJECT.—The term “Mississippi River and Tributaries project” means the Mississippi River and Tributaries project authorized by the first section of the Act of May 15, 1928 (33 U.S.C. 702a).

(2) NATURAL FEATURE; NATURE-BASED FEATURE.—The terms “natural feature” and “nature-based feature” have the meanings given those terms in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to

carry out this section \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(i) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall delay or interfere with, or be construed as grounds for enjoining construction of, authorized projects within the study area.

**SEC. 214. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an assessment of the water resources needs of the Upper Mississippi River under section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2267a).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall carry out the assessment under subsection (a) in accordance with the requirements in section 1206(b) of Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1686).

**SEC. 215. UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN MAINSTEM DAM FISH LOSS RESEARCH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16), the Secretary shall conduct research on the management of fish losses through the mainstem dams of the Missouri River Basin during periods of high flow.

(b) CONTENTS.—The research conducted under subsection (a) shall include an examination of—

(1) the effects of high flow rates through Upper Missouri River Basin mainstem dam outlet works on fish passage;

(2) options used by other Corps of Engineers district offices to mitigate fish losses through dams; and

(3) the feasibility of implementing fish loss mitigation options in the Upper Missouri River Basin mainstem dams, based on similar ongoing studies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report recommending a plan to address fish losses through mainstem dams in the Upper Missouri River Basin.

**SEC. 216. LOWER AND UPPER MISSOURI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD PROTECTION.**

(a) ADDITIONAL STUDIES FOR LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), upon the request of the non-Federal interest for the Lower Missouri Basin study, the Secretary shall expand the scope of such study to investigate and provide recommendations relating to—

(A) modifications to projects in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri authorized under the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program (authorized by section 9(b) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665, 58 Stat. 891)) and the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation project (authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59 Stat. 19)), including modifications to the authorized purposes of such projects to further flood risk management and resiliency; and

(B) modifications to non-Federal, publicly owned levees in the Lower Missouri River Basin.

(2) EXCEPTION.—If the Secretary determines that expanding the scope of the Lower Missouri Basin study as provided in paragraph (1) is not practicable, and the non-Federal interest for such study concurs in such determination, the Secretary shall carry out such additional studies as are necessary to investigate the modifications described in paragraph (1).

(3) CONTINUATION OF LOWER MISSOURI BASIN STUDY.—The following studies shall be con-

sidered a continuation of the Lower Missouri Basin study:

(A) Any additional study carried out under paragraph (2).

(B) Any study recommended to be carried out in a report that the Chief of Engineers prepares for the Lower Missouri Basin study.

(C) Any study recommended to be carried out in a report that the Chief of Engineers prepares for an additional study carried out under paragraph (2).

(D) Any study spun off from the Lower Missouri Basin study before the completion of such study.

(E) Any study spun off from an additional study carried out under paragraph (2) before the completion of such additional study.

(4) RELIANCE ON EXISTING INFORMATION.—In carrying out any study described in or authorized by this subsection, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall rely on existing data and analysis, including data and analysis prepared under section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16).

(5) CONSIDERATION; CONSULTATION.—In developing recommendations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consider the use of—

(i) structural and nonstructural measures, including the setting back of levees and removing structures from areas of recurring flood vulnerability, where advantageous, to reduce flood risk and damages in the Lower Missouri River Basin; and

(ii) where such features are locally acceptable, natural features or nature-based features (as such terms are defined in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a); and

(B) consult with applicable Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, and other stakeholders within the Lower Missouri River Basin and solicit public comment on such recommendations.

(6) EXEMPTION FROM MAXIMUM STUDY COST AND DURATION LIMITATIONS.—Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c) shall not apply to the Lower Missouri Basin study or any study described in paragraph (3).

(7) PRECONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, AND DESIGN.—Upon completion of a study authorized by this subsection, if the Secretary determines that a recommended project, or modification to a project described in paragraph (1), is justified, the Secretary may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project or modification.

(8) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the provision of technical assistance to support small communities and economically disadvantaged communities in the planning and design of flood risk management and flood risk resiliency projects in the Lower Missouri River Basin, for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026, there are authorized to be appropriated—

(i) \$2,000,000 to carry out section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 709a), in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to carry out such section; and

(ii) \$2,000,000 to carry out section 22(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16), in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to carry out such section.

(B) CONDITIONS.—

(i) LIMITATIONS NOT APPLICABLE.—The limitations on the use of funds in section 206(d) of the Flood Control Act of 1960 and section 22(c)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 shall not apply to the amounts authorized to be appropriated by subparagraph (A).

(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph restricts the authority of the

Secretary to use any funds otherwise appropriated to carry out section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 or section 22(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 to provide technical assistance described in subparagraph (A).

(9) **COMPLETION OF STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report detailing—

(A) the results of the study authorized by this subsection;

(B) any additional, site-specific areas within the Lower Missouri River Basin for which additional study for flood risk management projects is recommended by the Secretary; and

(C) any interim actions relating to existing water resources development projects in the Lower Missouri River Basin undertaken by the Secretary during the study period.

(10) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **LOWER MISSOURI BASIN STUDY.**—The term “Lower Missouri Basin study” means the Lower Missouri Basin Flood Risk and Resiliency Study, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri, authorized pursuant to section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a).

(B) **SMALL COMMUNITY.**—The term “small community” means a local government that serves a population of less than 15,000.

(b) **UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in collaboration with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a comprehensive study to address flood risk in areas affected by severe flooding in 2019 along the Upper Missouri River, including an examination of—

(A) the use of structural and nonstructural flood control and floodplain management strategies, including the consideration of natural features or nature-based features (as such terms are defined in section 1184 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a);

(B) continued operation and maintenance of the navigation project;

(C) management of bank caving and erosion;

(D) maintenance of water supply;

(E) fish and wildlife habitat management;

(F) recreation needs;

(G) environmental restoration needs;

(H) the division of responsibilities of the Federal Government and non-Federal interests with respect to Missouri River flooding;

(I) the roles and responsibilities of Federal agencies with respect to Missouri River flooding; and

(J) any other related matters, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—In conducting the study under this subsection, the Secretary may develop recommendations to Congress for—

(A) the construction of a water resources development project;

(B) the structural or operational modification of an existing water resources development project;

(C) such additional monitoring of, or adaptive management measures to carry out with respect to, existing water resources development projects, to respond to changing conditions;

(D) geographic areas within the Upper Missouri River basin for additional study by the Secretary;

(E) management plans and actions to be carried out by the responsible Federal agen-

cies to reduce flood risk and improve resiliency;

(F) any necessary changes to the general comprehensive plan for flood control and other purposes in the Missouri River Basin under section 4 of the Act of June 28, 1938 (chapter 795, 52 Stat. 1218; 58 Stat. 891); and

(G) follow-up studies for problem areas for which data or current technology does not allow immediate solutions.

(3) **COMPLETION OF STUDY; REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—

(A) contains the results of the comprehensive study required by this subsection, including any recommendations developed under paragraph (2);

(B) addresses—

(i) the potential for the transfer of flood risk between and within the Upper and Lower Missouri River basins with respect to any changes recommended pursuant to paragraph (2)(F);

(ii) adverse impacts to navigation and other authorized purposes of the applicable Missouri River project with respect to any changes recommended under paragraph (2)(F); and

(iii) whether there are opportunities for increased non-Federal management in the Upper Missouri River Basin;

(C) recognizes—

(i) the interest and rights of States in—

(I) determining the development of watersheds within the borders of the State; and

(II) water utilization and control; and

(ii) the primary responsibilities of States and local interests in developing water supplies for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other purposes; and

(D) describes any interim actions relating to existing water resources development projects in the Upper Missouri River Basin undertaken by the Secretary during the study period.

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with applicable Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, and other stakeholders within the Upper Missouri River Basin and solicit public comment.

(5) **RELIANCE ON EXISTING INFORMATION.**—In carrying out any study described in or authorized by this subsection, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall rely on existing data and analysis, including data and analysis prepared under section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16).

(6) **EXEMPTION FROM MAXIMUM STUDY COST AND DURATION LIMITATIONS.**—Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c) shall not apply to the comprehensive study carried out under this section or any feasibility study described in paragraph (7).

(7) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—Any feasibility study carried out pursuant to a recommendation included in the report submitted under this subsection shall be considered to be a continuation of the comprehensive study required under paragraph (1).

(8) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “Missouri River project” means a project constructed as part of—

(A) the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program (authorized by section 9(b) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665, 58 Stat. 891)), located in the States of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, or South Dakota;

(B) the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation project (authorized by sec-

tion 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59 Stat. 19); or

(C) a non-Federal, publicly owned levee system located within the Upper Missouri River Basin.

(c) **COORDINATION.**—Upon completion of the studies under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall develop a strategy that, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinates and aligns the results of such studies.

**SEC. 217. PORTSMOUTH HARBOR AND PISCATAQUA RIVER AND RYE HARBOR, NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

(a) **REQUIREMENT TO EXPEDITE.**—The Secretary shall expedite authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Rye Harbor, New Hampshire, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 480).

(b) **STATUS UPDATE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written status update regarding—

(1) the activities required to be expedited under subsection (a); and

(2) the project for navigation, Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1173), as required to be expedited under section 1317 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3823).

**SEC. 218. COUGAR AND DETROIT DAMS, WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN, OREGON.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and make publicly available, a report providing an initial analysis of deauthorizing hydropower as a project purpose at the Cougar and Detroit Dams project.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The Secretary shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a)—

(1) a description of the potential effects of deauthorizing hydropower as a project purpose at the Cougar and Detroit Dams project on—

(A) the operation of the project, including with respect to the other authorized purposes of the project;

(B) compliance of the project with the Endangered Species Act;

(C) costs that would be attributed to other authorized purposes of the project, including costs relating to compliance with such Act; and

(D) other ongoing studies in the Willamette River Basin; and

(2) identification of any further research needed.

(c) **PROJECT DEFINED.**—In this section, the terms “Cougar and Detroit Dams project” and “project” mean the Cougar Dam and Reservoir project and Detroit Dam and Reservoir project, Willamette River Basin, Oregon, authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 179), and facilities that operate in conjunction with the main Detroit Dam facility, including the Big Cliff re-regulating dam.

**SEC. 219. PORT ORFORD, OREGON.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, at Federal expense, submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a summary report on the research completed and data gathered by the date of enactment of this Act with regards to the configuration of a breakwater for the project for navigation, Port Orford, Oregon, authorized by section 117 of the River and Harbor

Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1822; 106 Stat. 4809), for the purposes of addressing shoaling issues to minimize long-term maintenance costs.

**SEC. 220. WILSON CREEK AND SLOAN CREEK, FAIRVIEW, TEXAS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written status update regarding efforts to address flooding along Wilson Creek and Sloan Creek in the City of Fairview, Texas.

**SEC. 221. STUDY ON WATER SUPPLY AND WATER CONSERVATION AT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of the Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that analyzes the benefits and consequences of including water supply and water conservation as a primary mission of the Corps of Engineers in carrying out water resources development projects.

(b) INCLUSION.—The Secretary shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a)—

(1) a description of existing water resources development projects with water supply or water conservation as authorized purposes, and the extent to which such projects are utilized for such purposes;

(2) a description of existing water resources development projects with respect to which—

(A) water supply or water conservation could be added as a project purpose, including those with respect to which a non-Federal interest has expressed an interest in adding water supply or water conservation as a project purpose; and

(B) such a purpose could be accommodated while maintaining existing authorized purposes;

(3) a description of ongoing water resources development project studies the authorizations for which include authorization for the Secretary to study the feasibility of carrying out the project with a purpose of water supply or water conservation;

(4) an analysis of how adding water supply and water conservation as a primary mission of the Corps of Engineers would affect the ability of the Secretary to carry out future water resources development projects; and

(5) any recommendations of the Secretary relating to including water supply and water conservation as a primary mission of the Corps of Engineers.

**SEC. 222. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUTHORIZED STUDIES AND PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of each year, the Secretary shall develop and submit to Congress an annual report, to be entitled “Report to Congress on Authorized Water Resources Development Projects and Studies”, that identifies—

(1) ongoing or new feasibility studies, authorized within the previous 20 years, for which a Report of the Chief of Engineers has not been issued;

(2) authorized feasibility studies for projects in the preconstruction, engineering and design phase;

(3) ongoing or new water resources development projects authorized for construction within the previous 20 years; and

(4) authorized and constructed water resources development projects the Secretary has the responsibility to operate or maintain.

(b) CONTENTS.—

(1) INCLUSIONS.—

(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under this section only a feasibility study or water resources development project—

(i) that has been authorized by Congress to be carried out by the Secretary and does not require any additional congressional authorization to be carried out;

(ii) that the Secretary has the capability to carry out if funds are appropriated for such study or project under any of the “Investigations”, “Construction”, “Operation and Maintenance”, or “Mississippi River and Tributaries” appropriations accounts for the Corps of Engineers; and

(iii) for which a non-Federal interest—

(I) in the case of a study or a project other than a project for which funds may be appropriated for operation and maintenance, has entered into a feasibility cost-sharing agreement, design agreement, or project partnership agreement with the Corps of Engineers, or has informed the Secretary that the non-Federal interest has the financial capability to enter into such an agreement within 1 year; and

(II) demonstrates the legal and financial capability to satisfy the requirements for local cooperation with respect to the study or project.

(B) DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS.—

(i) DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, describe in each report submitted under this section the benefits, as described in clause (ii), of each feasibility study and water resources development project included in the report.

(ii) BENEFITS.—The benefits referred to in clause (i) are benefits to—

(I) the protection of human life and property;

(II) improvement to transportation;

(III) the national, regional, or local economy;

(IV) the environment; or

(V) the national security interests of the United States.

(2) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under this section, for each feasibility study and water resources development project included in the report—

(A) the name of the associated non-Federal interest, including the name of any non-Federal interest that has contributed, or is expected to contribute, a non-Federal share of the cost of the study or project;

(B) the purpose of the study or project;

(C) an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the Federal, non-Federal, and total costs of the study or project, including, to the extent practicable, the fully funded capability of the Corps of Engineers for—

(i) the 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, in the case of a feasibility study; and

(ii) the 5 fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, in the case of a water resources development project; and

(D) an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the study or project.

(3) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under this section a certification stating that each feasibility study or water resources development project included in the report meets the criteria described in paragraph (1)(A).

(4) OMISSIONS.—

(A) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not omit from a report submitted under this section a study or project that otherwise meets the criteria for inclusion in the report solely on the basis of a policy of the Secretary.

(B) APPENDIX.—If the Secretary omits from a report submitted under this section a study or project that otherwise meets the criteria for inclusion in the report, the Secretary shall include with the report an appendix that lists the name of the study or project and reason for its omission.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—

(1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary may submit a report under this section in conjunction with the submission of the annual report under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d).

(2) PUBLICATION.—On submission of each report under this section, the Secretary shall make the report publicly available, including through publication on the internet.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NON-FEDERAL INTEREST.—The term “non-Federal interest” has the meaning given that term in section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b).

(2) WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.—The term “water resources development project” includes a separable element of a project, a project under an environmental infrastructure assistance program, and a project the authorized purposes of which include water supply.

**SEC. 223. COMPLETION OF REPORTS AND MATERIALS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Using available appropriations, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall complete and submit to Congress the following materials:

(1) The report required by section 1211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3808).

(2) Implementation guidance for the amendments made by section 1176 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1673).

(3) Implementation guidance for the amendments made by section 3029(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1305).

(4) Any other report or other material required to be submitted to Congress by any of the following Acts (including by amendments made by such Acts) that has not been so submitted by the date of enactment of this section:

(A) The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121).

(B) The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322).

(C) The Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270).

(b) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—To the extent practicable and appropriate, the Secretary shall use existing data in completing any materials described in subsection (a).

(c) FAILURE TO SUBMIT.—If the Secretary fails to submit materials as required by this section, the Secretary shall immediately inform the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, in writing, of the specific reasons for such failure and a timeline for submission of the delinquent materials.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall expeditiously issue any guidance necessary to implement any provision of this Act, including any amendments made by this Act, in accordance with section 1105 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2202).

**SEC. 224. EMERGENCY FLOODING PROTECTION FOR LAKES.**

The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the extent to which section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), applies to lakes, including lakes with the flow of a slow-moving river, including, if applicable, recommendations for legislative changes to ensure that such lakes are eligible for the program carried out pursuant to such section.

**SEC. 225. REPORT ON DEBRIS REMOVAL.**

Section 1210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3808) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 1210. REPORT ON DEBRIS REMOVAL.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that describes—

“(1) the extent to which, during the 10 fiscal years prior to such date of enactment, the Secretary has carried out section 3 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (33 U.S.C. 603a);

“(2) how the Secretary has evaluated potential work to be carried out under that section; and

“(3) the extent to which the Secretary plans to start, continue, or complete debris removal activities in the 3 years following submission of the report.

“(b) FOCUS AREAS.—The Secretary shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a)—

“(1) identification of the debris removal activities to be started, continued, or completed during the first fiscal year following the date of enactment of this subsection within the boundaries of the North Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers;

“(2) the estimated total costs and completion dates for such activities; and

“(3) identification of the non-Federal interest associated with such activities.”.

**SEC. 226. REPORT ON ANTECEDENT HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS.****(a) REPORT.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the use by the Corps of Engineers since 2010 of data relating to antecedent hydrologic conditions in the Missouri River Basin (including soil moisture conditions, frost depths, snowpack, and streamflow conditions) in—

(A) conducting Missouri River mainstem reservoir operations under the Missouri River Master Manual;

(B) developing related annual operating plans; and

(C) performing seasonal, monthly, and daily operations.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

**(A) a review of—**

(i) the approach of the Corps of Engineers to forecasting basin runoff in developing annual operating plans of the Corps of Engineers;

(ii) the assessment of existing and alternative algorithms that could improve basin runoff forecasting;

(iii) the approach of the Corps of Engineers for reservoir releases in the winter, spring, summer, and fall, based on basin runoff forecasts;

(iv) the technical report of the Corps of Engineers entitled “Long-Term Runoff Forecasting”, dated February, 2017;

(v) the use by the Corps of Engineers of data from Federal and State entities in basin runoff forecasts; and

(vi) the use by the Corps of Engineers of advanced data collection, including through the use of unmanned aerial systems, forecasting, and modeling;

(B) findings and recommendations on how to best incorporate antecedent basin conditions in annual operating plans and Missouri River mainstem reservoir operations; and

(C) the results of the peer review conducted under subsection (b).

(b) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences or a similar independent scientific and technical advisory organization to establish a panel of experts to conduct a peer review of the report to be submitted under subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

(1) \$5,000,000 to carry out subsection (a); and

(2) \$5,000,000 to carry out subsection (b).

**SEC. 227. SUBSURFACE DRAIN SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Engineer Research and Development Center and, where appropriate, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall carry out research and development activities relating to the use of subsurface drain systems as—

(1) a flood risk-reduction measure; or

(2) a coastal storm risk-reduction measure.

**SEC. 228. REPORT ON CORROSION PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and make publicly available, a report that describes—

(1) the extent to which the Secretary has carried out section 1033 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2350);

(2) the extent to which the Secretary has incorporated corrosion prevention activities (as defined in such section) at water resources development projects constructed or maintained by the Secretary since the date of enactment of such section; and

(3) in instances where the Secretary has not incorporated corrosion prevention activities at such water resources development projects since such date, an explanation as to why such corrosion prevention activities have not been incorporated.

**SEC. 229. ANNUAL REPORTING ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**

Section 1104(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2282d note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written update on the progress of the implementation of paragraph (1), including a description of each education and outreach action the Secretary is taking to implement that paragraph.

“(3) GUIDANCE; COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) issue guidance on the uniform implementation by each district of the Corps of Engineers of the process for submitting proposals under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d); and

“(B) each year, ensure compliance with the guidance issued under subparagraph (A).”.

**SEC. 230. REPORT ON BENEFITS CALCULATION FOR FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the extent to which flood insurance premium reductions that result from implementation of a flood risk management project, including structural elements, non-structural elements, or natural features or nature-based features, are included in the calculation of the benefits of the project by the Corps of Engineers.

**TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS****SEC. 301. DEAUTHORIZATION OF INACTIVE PROJECTS.**

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to identify water resources development projects authorized by Congress that are no longer viable for construction due to—

(A) a lack of local support;

(B) a lack of available Federal or non-Federal resources; or

(C) an authorizing purpose that is no longer relevant or feasible;

(2) to create an expedited and definitive process for Congress to deauthorize water resources development projects that are no longer viable for construction; and

(3) to allow the continued authorization of water resources development projects that are viable for construction.

**(b) PROPOSED DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—****(1) PRELIMINARY LIST OF PROJECTS.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a preliminary list of each water resources development project, or separable element of a project, authorized for construction before November 8, 2007, for which—

(i) planning, design, or construction was not initiated before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) planning, design, or construction was initiated before the date of enactment of this Act, but for which no funds, Federal or non-Federal, were obligated for planning, design, or construction of the project or separable element of the project during the current fiscal year or any of the 10 preceding fiscal years.

(B) USE OF COMPREHENSIVE CONSTRUCTION BACKLOG AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT.—The Secretary may develop the preliminary list from the comprehensive construction backlog and operation and maintenance reports developed pursuant to section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a).

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall not include on the preliminary list—

(i) an environmental infrastructure assistance project authorized to be carried out by the Secretary (including a project authorized pursuant to an environmental assistance program); or

(ii) a project or separable element of a project authorized as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan described in section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2680).

**(2) PREPARATION OF PROPOSED DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—**

(A) DEAUTHORIZATION AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall prepare a proposed list of projects for deauthorization comprised of a subset of projects and separable elements identified on the preliminary list developed under paragraph (1) that have, in the aggregate, an estimated Federal cost to complete that is at least \$10,000,000,000.

(B) DETERMINATION OF FEDERAL COST TO COMPLETE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Federal cost to complete shall take into account any allowances authorized by section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280), as applied

to the most recent project schedule and cost estimate.

(C) INCLUSION OF DEAUTHORIZATION OF ANTIQUATED PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall reduce the amount identified for deauthorization under paragraph (2)(A) by an amount equivalent to the estimated current value of each project, or separable element of a project, that is deauthorized by subsection (f).

(3) SEQUENCING OF PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall identify projects and separable elements for inclusion on the proposed list of projects for deauthorization under paragraph (2) according to the order in which the projects and separable elements were authorized, beginning with the earliest authorized projects and separable elements and ending with the latest project or separable element necessary to meet the aggregate amount under paragraph (2)(A).

(B) FACTORS TO CONSIDER.—The Secretary may identify projects and separable elements in an order other than that established by subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a project or separable element is critical for interests of the United States, based on the possible impact of the project or separable element on public health and safety, the national economy, or the environment.

(4) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit comments from the public and the Governors of each applicable State on the proposed deauthorization list prepared under paragraph (2)(A).

(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The public comment period shall be 90 days.

(5) PREPARATION OF FINAL DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare a final deauthorization list by—

(i) considering any comments received under paragraph (4); and

(ii) revising the proposed deauthorization list prepared under paragraph (2)(A) as the Secretary determines necessary to respond to such comments.

(B) APPENDIX.—The Secretary shall include as part of the final deauthorization list an appendix that—

(i) identifies each project or separable element on the proposed deauthorization list that is not included on the final deauthorization list; and

(ii) describes the reasons why the project or separable element is not included on the final deauthorization list.

(C) SUBMISSION OF FINAL DEAUTHORIZATION LIST TO CONGRESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW; PUBLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the close of the comment period under subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit the final deauthorization list and appendix prepared under subsection (b)(5) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) publish the final deauthorization list and appendix in the Federal Register.

(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall not include in the final deauthorization list submitted under paragraph (1) any project or separable element with respect to which Federal funds for planning, design, or construction are obligated after the development of the preliminary list under subsection (b)(1)(A) but prior to the submission of the final deauthorization list under paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

(d) DEAUTHORIZATION; CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of publication of the final deauthorization list and appendix under subsection (c)(1)(B), a project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list is hereby deauthorized, unless Congress passes a joint resolution disapproving the final deauthorization list prior to the end of such period.

(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list under subsection (c) shall not be deauthorized under this subsection if, before the expiration of the 2-year period referred to in paragraph (1), the non-Federal interest for the project or separable element of the project provides sufficient funds to complete the project or separable element of the project.

(B) TREATMENT OF PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), each project and separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list shall be treated as deauthorized for purposes of the aggregate deauthorization amount specified in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(3) PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the appendix to the final deauthorization list shall remain subject to future deauthorization by Congress.

(e) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDIES.—A project or separable element of a project may not be identified on the proposed deauthorization list developed under subsection (b), or the final deauthorization list developed under subsection (c), if the project or separable element received funding for a post-authorization study during the current fiscal year or any of the 10 preceding fiscal years.

(2) TREATMENT OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this section, if an authorized water resources development project or separable element of the project has been modified by an Act of Congress, the date of the authorization of the project or separable element shall be deemed to be the date of the most recent such modification.

(f) DEAUTHORIZATION OF ANTIQUATED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any water resources development project, or separable element of a project, authorized for construction prior to November 17, 1986, for which construction has not been initiated prior to the date of enactment of this Act, or for which funds have not been obligated for construction in the 10-year period prior to the date of enactment of this Act, is hereby deauthorized.

(2) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that identifies—

(A) the name of each project, or separable element of a project, deauthorized by paragraph (1); and

(B) the estimated current value of each such project or separable element of a project.

(g) ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF INACTIVE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—The Secretary or the non-Federal interest may not carry out any authorized water resources development project, or separable element of such project, for which construction has not been initiated in the 20-year period following the date of the authorization of such project or separable element, until—

(1) the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a post-authorization change report that updates the economic and environmental analysis of the project or separable element; and

(2) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate take appropriate action to address any modifications to the economic and environmental analysis for the project or separable element of the project contained in the post-authorization change report.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORT.—The term “post-authorization change report” has the meaning given such term in section 1132(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2282e).

(2) POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDY.—The term “post-authorization study” means—

(A) a feasibility report developed under section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282);

(B) a feasibility study, as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d)); or

(C) a review conducted under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), including an initial appraisal that—

(i) demonstrates a Federal interest; and

(ii) requires additional analysis for the project or separable element.

**SEC. 302. ABANDONED AND INACTIVE NONCOAL MINE RESTORATION.**

Section 560(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (33 U.S.C. 2336(f)) is amended by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$30,000,000”.

**SEC. 303. TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

Section 203(b)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2269) is amended by striking “\$12,500,000” each place it appears and inserting “\$18,500,000”.

**SEC. 304. LAKES PROGRAM.**

Section 602(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662, 100 Stat. 4148; 110 Stat. 3758; 113 Stat. 295; 121 Stat. 1076) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (27), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (28), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(29) Ellis Pond and Guild Pond, Norwood, Massachusetts; and

“(30) Memorial Pond, Walpole, Massachusetts.”.

**SEC. 305. REHABILITATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTED DAMS.**

Section 1177 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 467f-2 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$60,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$60,000,000”.

**SEC. 306. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303, 110 Stat. 3759; 121 Stat. 1202; 128 Stat. 1317) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) PROJECT CAP.—The total cost of a project carried out under this section may not exceed \$15,000,000.”; and

(2) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$90,000,000”.

(b) OUTREACH AND TRAINING.—The Secretary shall conduct public outreach and

workshops for non-Federal interests to provide information on the Chesapeake Bay environmental restoration and protection program established under section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, including how to participate in the program.

**SEC. 307. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

Section 1103(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 652(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$22,750,000” and inserting “\$40,000,000”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$10,420,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”.

**SEC. 308. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROTECTION.**

Section 2010(e) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1270; 132 Stat. 3812) is amended by striking “the Act of October 15, 1940 (33 U.S.C. 701h-1)” and inserting “section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (33 U.S.C. 701h)”.

**SEC. 309. THEODORE SHIP CHANNEL, MOBILE, ALABAMA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The project for navigation, Theodore Ship Channel, Mobile Harbor, Alabama, authorized by section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5), is revised to incorporate into the project the 40-foot-deep, 1,320-foot-wide, and approximately 1,468.5-foot-long access channel, extending north from stations 257+25 and 273+25 from the Theodore Channel, that was constructed for the former Naval Station Mobile, as a substitute for the authorized but unconstructed 40-foot-deep, 300-foot-wide, and 1,200-foot-long anchorage basin in the same location, to serve the public terminal that replaced the former Naval Station Mobile as obligated under the authorizations for the project.

(b) TREATMENT.—The Secretary shall—

(1) consider construction of the access channel described in subsection (a) to be complete; and

(2) assume maintenance of the access channel described in subsection (a) for so long as the terminal described in subsection (a) remains publicly owned.

**SEC. 310. MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM.**

Any Federal funds, regardless of the account from which the funds were provided, used to carry out construction of the modification to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, authorized in section 136 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2004 (117 Stat. 1842), shall be considered by the Secretary as initiating construction of the project such that future funds will not require a new investment decision.

**SEC. 311. OUACHITA AND BLACK RIVERS, ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA.**

The project for navigation, Ouachita and Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 481), is modified to include water supply as an authorized purpose.

**SEC. 312. LAKE ISABELLA, CALIFORNIA.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary, when evaluating alternative locations for construction of a permanent Isabella Lake Visitor Center by the Corps of Engineers to replace the facility impacted by the Isabella Dam safety modification project, should afford substantial weight to the site preference of the local community.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire such interests in real property as the Secretary determines necessary or advisable to support construction of the Isabella Dam safety modification project.

(c) TRANSFER.—The Secretary may transfer any real property interests acquired under subsection (b) to any other Federal agency or department without reimbursement.

(d) ISABELLA DAM SAFETY MODIFICATION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Isabella Dam safety modification project” means the dam safety modification project at the Isabella Reservoir in the San Joaquin Valley, California (authorized by Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665, 58 Stat. 901)), including the component of the project relating to construction a visitor center facility.

**SEC. 313. LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT.**

The Secretary shall align the schedules of, and maximize complimentary efforts, minimize duplicative practices, and ensure coordination and information sharing with respect to—

(1) the project for flood risk management, Lower San Joaquin River, authorized by section 1401(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3836); and

(2) the second phase of the feasibility study for the Lower San Joaquin River project for flood risk management, authorized for expedited completion by section 1203(a)(7) of the Water Resources Development Act 2018 (132 Stat. 3803).

**SEC. 314. SACRAMENTO RIVER, GLENN-COLUSA, CALIFORNIA.**

The portion of project for flood control, Sacramento River, California, authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 1, 1917 (chapter 144, 39 Stat. 949; 103 Stat. 649; 110 Stat. 3709; 112 Stat. 1841; 113 Stat. 299), consisting of a riverbed gradient restoration facility at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Intake, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 315. SAN DIEGO RIVER AND MISSION BAY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

The portion of the project for flood control and navigation, San Diego River and Mission Bay, San Diego County, California, authorized by the Act of July 24, 1946 (chapter 595, 60 Stat. 636), identified in the National Levee Database established under section 9004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303) as the San Diego River 3 segment and consisting of a 785-foot-long segment of the right bank levee from Station 209+41.75 to its end at Station 217+26.75, as described in construction plans dated August 30, 1951, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 316. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, WATERFRONT AREA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 114 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 59h) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 114. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, WATERFRONT AREA.**

“(a) AREA TO BE DECLARED NONNAVIGABLE.—The following area is declared to be nonnavigable waters of the United States: All of that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, California, lying shoreward of a line beginning at the intersection of the southerly right of way line of Earl Street prolongation with the Pierhead United States Government Pierhead line, the Pierhead line as defined in the State of California Harbor and Navigation Code Section 1770, as amended in 1961; thence northerly along said Pierhead line to its intersection with a line parallel with and distant 10 feet easterly from, the existing easterly boundary line of Pier 30-32; thence northerly along said parallel line and its northerly prolongation, to a point of intersection with a line parallel with, and distant 10 feet northerly from, the existing northerly boundary of Pier 30-32; thence westerly along last said parallel line to its intersection with said

Pierhead line; thence northerly along said Pierhead line, to the intersection of the easterly right of way line of Van Ness Avenue, formerly Marlette Street, prolongation to the Pierhead line.

“(b) REQUIREMENT THAT AREA BE IMPROVED.—The declaration of nonnavigability under subsection (a) applies only to those parts of the area described in subsection (a) that are or will be bulkheaded, filled, or otherwise occupied or covered by permanent structures and does not affect the applicability of any Federal statute or regulation that relates to filling of navigable waters or to other regulated activities within the area described in subsection (a), including sections 9 and 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401, 403), section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

“(c) INCLUSION OF EMBARCADERO HISTORIC DISTRICT.—Congress finds and declares that the area described in subsection (a) contains the seawall, piers, and wharves that comprise the Embarcadero Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 12, 2006.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5052 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 59h-1) is repealed.

**SEC. 317. WESTERN PACIFIC INTERCEPTOR CANAL, SACRAMENTO RIVER, CALIFORNIA.**

The portion of the project for flood protection on the Sacramento River, authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 1, 1917 (chapter 144, 39 Stat. 949; 45 Stat. 539; 50 Stat. 877; 55 Stat. 647; 80 Stat. 1422), consisting of the portion of the levee from G.P.S. coordinate N2147673.584 E66690904.187 to N2147908.413 E66689057.060 associated with the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 318. RIO GRANDE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, AND TEXAS.**

Section 5056(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114, 121 Stat. 1213; 128 Stat. 1314) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2029”.

**SEC. 319. NEW LONDON HARBOR WATERFRONT CHANNEL, CONNECTICUT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The portion of the project for navigation, New London Harbor, Connecticut, authorized by the first section of the Act of June 13, 1902 (chapter 1079, 32 Stat. 333), described in subsection (b) is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) AREA DESCRIBED.—The area referred to in subsection (a) is generally the portion between and around the 2 piers at the State Pier in New London, specifically the area—

(1) beginning at a point N691263.78, E1181259.26;

(2) running N 35°01'50.75" W about 955.59 feet to a point N692046.26, E1180710.74;

(3) running N 54°58'06.78" E about 100.00 feet to a point N692103.66, E1180792.62;

(4) running S 35°01'50.75" E about 989.8 feet to a point N691293.17, E1181360.78; and

(5) running S 73°51'15.45" W about 105.69 feet to the point described in paragraph (1).

**SEC. 320. WILMINGTON HARBOR, DELAWARE.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Corps of Engineers should maintain the annual maintenance dredging for Wilmington Harbor, Delaware, authorized by the Act of June 3, 1896 (chapter 314, 29 Stat. 207).

**SEC. 321. WILMINGTON HARBOR SOUTH DISPOSAL AREA, DELAWARE.**

(a) FINDING.—For the purposes of applying section 217(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(b)) to the Wilmington Harbor South Disposal Area, Delaware, the Secretary shall find that the standard has been met for the Edgemoor expansion of the Port of Wilmington, Delaware.

(b) USE.—Any use of the Wilmington Harbor South Disposal Area permitted by the Secretary under section 217(b) for the Edgemoor Expansion of the Port of Wilmington shall not otherwise reduce the availability of capacity, in dredged material disposal facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that were constructed before the date of enactment of this Act, for operation and maintenance of—

(1) the Delaware River Mainstem and Channel Deepening project, Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, authorized by section 101(6) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4802); or

(2) the Delaware River, Philadelphia to the Sea, project, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, authorized by the Act of June 25, 1910 (chapter 382, 36 Stat. 637; 46 Stat. 921; 52 Stat. 803; 59 Stat. 14; 68 Stat. 1249; 72 Stat. 297).

(c) FEE.—The Secretary shall impose on the non-Federal interest for the Edgemoor Expansion of the Port of Wilmington a fee, under section 217(b)(1)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(b)(1)(B)), to recover capital, operation, and maintenance costs associated with any use by the non-Federal interest of capacity in the Wilmington Harbor South Disposal Area permitted by the Secretary under section 217(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(d) AGREEMENT TO PAY.—In accordance with section 217(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(a)), if, to accommodate the dredged materials from operation and maintenance of the Edgemoor Expansion of the Port of Wilmington, the Secretary provides additional capacity at the Wilmington Harbor South Disposal Area, the non-Federal interest for the Edgemoor Expansion of the Port of Wilmington shall agree to pay, during the period of construction, all costs associated with the construction of the additional capacity.

**SEC. 322. WASHINGTON HARBOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the project for navigation, Washington Harbor, District of Columbia, authorized by the Act of August 30, 1935 (chapter 831, 49 Stat. 1031), is modified to reduce, in part, the authorized dimensions of the project, such that the remaining authorized dimensions are as follows:

(1) A 200-foot-wide, 12-foot-deep channel with a center line beginning at a point East 1,317,064.30 and North 440,373.32, thence to a point East 1,316,474.30 and North 440,028.31, thence to a point East 1,315,584.30 and North 439,388.30, thence to a point East 1,315,259.31 and North 438,908.30.

(2) A 200- to 300-foot-wide, 12-foot-deep transition area, with a center line beginning at a point East 1,315,259.31 and North 438,908.30 to a point East 1,315,044.31 and North 438,748.30.

(3) A 300-foot-wide, 15-foot-deep channel with a centerline beginning a point East 1,315,044.31 and North 438,748.30, thence to a point East 1,314,105.31 and North 438,124.79, thence to a point East 1,311,973.30 and North 438,807.78, thence to a point East 1,311,369.73 and North 438,577.42, thence to a point East 1,311,015.73 and North 438,197.57, thence to a point East 1,309,713.47 and North 435,678.91.

(4) A 300- to 400-foot-wide, 15- to 24-foot-deep transition area, with a center line beginning at a point East 1,309,713.47 and North 435,678.91 to a point East 1,307,709.33 and North 434,488.25.

(5) A 400-foot-wide, 24-foot-deep channel with a centerline beginning at a point East 1,307,709.33 and North 434,488.25, thence to a point East 1,307,459.33 and North 434,173.25, thence to a point East 1,306,476.82 and North

432,351.28, thence to a point East 1,306,209.79 and North 431,460.21, thence to a point at the end of the channel near Hains Point East 1,305,997.63 and North 429,978.31.

**SEC. 323. BIG CYPRESS SEMINOLE INDIAN RESERVATION WATER CONSERVATION PLAN, FLORIDA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The project for ecosystem restoration, Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation Water Conservation Plan, Florida, authorized pursuant to section 528 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3767), is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects the responsibility of the Secretary to pay any damages awarded by the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, to a contractor relating to the adjudication of claims arising from construction of the project described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 324. CENTRAL EVERGLADES, FLORIDA.**

The project for ecosystem restoration, Central Everglades, authorized by section 1401(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1713), is modified to include the project for ecosystem restoration, Central and Southern Florida, Everglades Agricultural Area, authorized by section 1308 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3819), and to authorize the Secretary to carry out the project, as so combined, at a total combined cost of \$4,362,091,000.

**SEC. 325. MIAMI RIVER, FLORIDA.**

The portion of the project for navigation, Miami River, Florida, authorized by the Act of July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 925; 59 Stat. 16; 74 Stat. 481; 100 Stat. 4257), beginning at the existing railroad bascule bridge and extending approximately 1,000 linear feet upstream to an existing salinity barrier and flood control structure, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 326. JULIAN KEEN, JR. LOCK AND DAM, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Moore Haven Lock and Dam, Moore Haven, Florida, authorized pursuant to the Act of July 3, 1930 (chapter 847, 46 Stat. 925; 49 Stat. 1032), shall be known and designated as the “Julian Keen, Jr. Lock and Dam”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Lock and Dam referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Julian Keen, Jr. Lock and Dam”.

**SEC. 327. TAYLOR CREEK RESERVOIR AND LEVEE L-73 (SECTION 1), UPPER ST. JOHNS RIVER BASIN, FLORIDA.**

The portions of the project for flood control and other purposes, Central and Southern Florida, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 1176), consisting of the Taylor Creek Reservoir and Levee L-73, Section 1, within the Upper St. Johns River Basin, Florida, are no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 328. EXTINGUISHMENT OF FLOWAGE EASEMENTS, ROUGH RIVER LAKE, KENTUCKY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and on request of the landowner, the Secretary shall extinguish any flowage easement or portion of a flowage easement held by the United States on developed land of the landowner at Rough River Lake, Kentucky—

(1) that is above 534 feet mean sea level; and

(2) for which the Secretary determines the flowage easement or portion of the flowage easement is not required to address back-water effects.

(b) NO LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any damages to property or injuries to persons from flooding that may be attributable to the operation and maintenance of Rough River Dam, Kentucky, on land that was encumbered by a flowage easement extinguished under subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

**SEC. 329. CALCASIEU RIVER AND PASS, LOUISIANA.**

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on plans to modify the Calcasieu River and Pass Dredged Material Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (November 22, 2010 DMMP/SEIS) to allow for the expansion of Dredged Material Placement Facilities (DMPPFs) 17, 19, 22, D, and E to the lakeside foreshore rock boundaries during planned rehabilitation of these facilities.

**SEC. 330. CAMDEN HARBOR, MAINE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The portions of the project for navigation, Camden Harbor, Maine, described in subsection (b) are no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) PORTIONS DESCRIBED.—The portions referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The portion of the 10-foot-deep inner harbor area, authorized by the first section of the Act of March 3, 1873 (chapter 233, 17 Stat. 565; 25 Stat. 400), approximately 50,621.75 square feet in area—

(A) starting at a point with coordinates N197,640.07, E837,851.71;

(B) thence running S84°43' 23.94"W about 381.51 feet to a point with coordinates N197,604.98, E837,471.82;

(C) thence running N43°47' 51.43"W about 270.26 feet to a point with coordinates N197,800.05, E837,284.77;

(D) thence running S59°02' 26.62"E about 219.18 feet to a point with coordinates N197,687.30, E837,472.72;

(E) thence running S81°50' 09.76"E about 144.70 feet to a point with coordinates N197,666.75, E837,615.96;

(F) thence running N57°27' 07.42"E about 317.32 feet to a point with coordinates N197,866.52, E837,928.96; and

(G) thence running S18°50' 04.48"W about 239.27 feet to the point described in subparagraph (A).

(2) The portion of the 14-foot-deep outer harbor area, authorized by the first section of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 400; 32 Stat. 331), approximately 222,015.94 square feet in area—

(A) starting at a point with coordinates N197,640.07, E837,851.71;

(B) thence running N18°50' 04.48"E about 239.27 feet to a point with coordinates N197,866.53, E837,928.96;

(C) thence running N58°28' 51.05"E about 308.48 feet to a point with coordinates N198,027.79, E838,191.93;

(D) thence running N84°20' 01.88"E about 370.06 feet to a point with coordinates N198,064.33, E838,560.18;

(E) thence running S05°32' 03.42"E about 357.31 feet to a point with coordinates N197,708.68, E838,594.64; and

(F) thence running S84°43' 23.94"W about 746.08 feet to the point described in subparagraph (A).

**SEC. 331. CAPE PORPOISE HARBOR, MAINE, ANCHORAGE AREA DESIGNATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The project for navigation, Cape Porpoise Harbor, Maine, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor

Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 1172), is modified to designate the portion of the project described in subsection (b) as a 6-foot-deep anchorage.

(b) PORTION DESCRIBED.—The portion of the project referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 192,235.63 square foot area consisting of the 100-foot-wide and 6-foot-deep channel located within the inner harbor—

(1) starting at a point with coordinates N 194,175.13, E 2,882,011.74;

(2) thence running N33°46' 08.14"W about 914.57 feet to a point with coordinates N 194,935.40, E 2,881,503.38;

(3) thence running N12°41' 09.78"W about 1,026.40 feet to a point with coordinates N 195,936.74, E 2,881,277.97;

(4) thence running N77°18' 50.22"E about 100.00 feet to a point with coordinates N 195,958.70, E 2,881,375.53;

(5) thence running S12°41' 09.78"E about 1,007.79 feet to a point with coordinates N 194,975.52, E 2,881,596.85;

(6) thence running S33°46' 08.14"E about 895.96 feet to a point with coordinates N 194,230.72, E 2,882,094.86; and

(7) thence running S56°13' 51.86"W about 100.00 feet to the point described in paragraph (1).

#### SEC. 332. BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with section 5 of Act of June 22, 1936 (33 U.S.C. 701h), to accept funds contributed by a non-Federal interest for dredging on irregular cycles of the Baltimore Inner Harbor Approach Channel, Baltimore Harbor and Channels Federal navigation project, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 297).

#### SEC. 333. THAD COCHRAN LOCK AND DAM, AMORY, MISSISSIPPI.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Thad Cochran, whose selfless determination and tireless work, while serving as a congressman and United States Senator from Mississippi for 45 years, contributed greatly to the realization and success of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The navigation lock known as the "Amory Lock", located at mile 371 on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Mississippi, and the dam associated with such lock, shall be known and designated as the "Thad Cochran Lock and Dam".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the lock and dam referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thad Cochran Lock and Dam".

#### SEC. 334. MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIR SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT.

Section 1179(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1675; 132 Stat. 3782) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "project purposes, including" before "storage capacity"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "preliminary";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (11), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) JUSTIFICATION.—In determining the economic justification of a sediment management plan under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

"(A) measure and include flooding, erosion, and accretion damages both upstream and downstream of the reservoir that are likely to occur as a result of sediment management within the reservoir compared to the damages that are likely to occur if the sediment management plan is not implemented; and

"(B) include lifecycle costs and a 100-year period of analysis.

"(5) IMPLEMENTATION.—As part of a sediment management plan under paragraph (2), and in accordance with paragraph (10), the Secretary may carry out sediment removal activities at reservoirs owned and operated by the Secretary in the Upper Missouri River Basin, or at reservoirs for which the Secretary has flood control responsibilities under section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (33 U.S.C. 709), in the Upper Missouri River Basin, in accordance with section 602 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4148; 110 Stat. 3758; 113 Stat. 295; 121 Stat. 1076) as if those reservoirs were listed in subsection (a) of that section."

#### SEC. 335. PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Secretary shall expedite the activities required to be carried out under section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326) regarding the use of improvement dredging of the Portsmouth Federal navigation project in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, carried out pursuant to section 3 of the Act of August 13, 1946 (33 U.S.C. 426g), as a source of clean beach fill material to reinforce the stone revetment at Nantasket Beach, Hull, Massachusetts.

#### SEC. 336. RAHWAY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY, NEW JERSEY.

The Secretary shall—

(1) nullify the determination of the North Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers that further activities to carry out the feasibility study for a project for flood risk management, Rahway, New Jersey, authorized by the resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives adopted on March 24, 1998 (docket number 2548), is not warranted;

(2) identify an acceptable alternative to the project described in paragraph (1) that could receive Federal support; and

(3) carry out, and expedite the completion of, a feasibility study for the acceptable alternative identified under paragraph (2).

#### SEC. 337. SAN JUAN-CHAMA PROJECT; ABIQUIU DAM, NEW MEXICO.

(a) ABIQUIU RESERVOIR.—Section 5(b) of Public Law 97-140 (43 U.S.C. 620a note) is amended by striking "a total of two hundred thousand acre-feet of".

(b) WATER STORAGE AT ABIQUIU DAM, NEW MEXICO.—Section 1 of Public Law 100-522 (43 U.S.C. 620a note) is amended—

(1) by striking "200,000 acre-feet of";

(2) by inserting "and San Juan-Chama project" after "Rio Grande system"; and

(3) by striking ", in lieu of the water storage authorized by section 5 of Public Law 97-140, to the extent that contracting entities under section 5 of Public Law 97-140 no longer require such storage".

(c) WATER STORAGE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) store up to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29 at Abiquiu Dam, New Mexico, to the extent that the necessary real property interests have been acquired by any entity requesting such storage; and

(2) amend the March 20, 1986, contract between the United States of America and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (assigned by the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority) for water storage space in Abiquiu Reservoir to allow for storage by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority of San Juan-Chama project water or native Rio Grande system water up to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29.

(d) STORAGE AGREEMENTS WITH USERS OTHER THAN THE ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall—

(1) retain or enter into new agreements with entities for a proportionate allocation

of 29,100 acre-feet of storage space pursuant to section 5 of Public Law 97-140; and

(2) amend or enter into new storage agreements for storage of San Juan-Chama project water or native Rio Grande system water up to the space allocated for each entity's proportionate share of San Juan-Chama water.

(e) OPERATIONS DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary shall amend or revise any existing operations documents, including the Water Control Manual or operations plan for Abiquiu Reservoir, as necessary to meet the requirements of this section.

(f) LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the following limitations shall apply:

(1) The storage of native Rio Grande system water shall be subject to the provisions of the Rio Grande Compact and the resolutions of the Rio Grande Compact Commission.

(2) The storage of native Rio Grande system water shall only be authorized to the extent that the necessary water ownership and storage rights have been acquired by the entity requesting such storage.

(3) The storage of native Rio Grande system water or San-Juan Chama project water shall not interfere with the authorized purposes of the Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir project.

(4) Each user of storage space, regardless of source of water, shall pay for any increase in costs attributable to storage of that user's water.

#### SEC. 338. FLUSHING BAY AND CREEK FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL, NEW YORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The portion of the project for navigation, Flushing Bay and Creek, New York, authorized by the first section of the Act of March 3, 1905 (chapter 1482, 33 Stat. 1120; 52 Stat. 803; 76 Stat. 1174), described in subsection (b) is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) PORTION DESCRIBED.—The portion referred to in subsection (a) is the portion from river mile 2.5 to river mile 2.9, as bounded by—

(1) the coordinates of—

(A) Latitude North 40° 45' 45.61" Longitude West 73° 50' 20.19";

(B) Latitude North 40° 45' 47.02" Longitude West 73° 50' 10.80";

(C) Latitude North 40° 45' 26.71" Longitude West 73° 50' 10.85"; and

(D) Latitude North 40° 45' 26.72" Longitude West 73° 50' 10.96"; and

(2) the New York Long Island State Plane (US Survey Feet, NAD-83), as follows:

(A) Easting x1028866.501 Northing y217179.294;

(B) Easting x1029588.853 Northing y217322.675;

(C) Easting x1029588.853 Northing y215267.486; and

(D) Easting x1028964.587 Northing y215267.486.

#### SEC. 339. RUSH RIVER AND LOWER BRANCH RUSH RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The portion of the comprehensive plan for flood control and other purposes in the Red River of the North drainage basin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 1177; 64 Stat. 176), consisting of clearing and rectification of the channel from mile 28.3 near Amentia to the mouth of the Rush River, known as Cass County Drain No. 12, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) LOWER BRANCH RUSH RIVER.—The project for flood control, Lower Branch Rush River, North Dakota, carried out under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), known as Cass County Drain No. 2, is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 340. PAWCATUCK RIVER, LITTLE NARRAGANSETT BAY AND WATCH HILL COVE, RHODE ISLAND AND CONNECTICUT.**

Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, that portion of the project for navigation, Pawcatuck River, Little Narragansett Bay and Watch Hill Cove, Rhode Island and Connecticut, authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59 Stat. 13), consisting of a 10-foot-deep, 16-acre anchorage area in Watch Hill Cove is no longer authorized.

**SEC. 341. HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.**

Section 575 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3789; 113 Stat. 311; 121 Stat. 1253) is repealed.

**SEC. 342. CAP SANTE WATERWAY, WASHINGTON.**

Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the project for navigation, Cap Sante Waterway and Navigation Channel, Skagit County, Washington, authorized by the Act of March 2, 1919 (chapter 95, 40 Stat. 1285), is modified to deauthorize the portion of the project consisting of an approximately 334,434-foot area of the Federal channel within Anacortes Harbor inside and directly adjacent to the Federal breakwater and training wall structure, starting at a point with coordinates N557015.552, E1210819.619, thence running S88 13°2.06'E approximately 200 feet to a point with coordinates N557009.330, E1211019.522, thence running S01 46°58.08'W approximately 578 feet to a point with coordinates N556431.405, E1211001.534, thence running S49 49°50.23'W approximately 69 feet to a point with coordinates N556387.076, E1210949.002, thence running S51 53°0.25'E approximately 35 feet to a point with coordinates N556365.662, E1210976.316, thence running S49 38°58.48'W approximately 112 feet to a point with coordinates N556292.989, E1210890.775, thence running N88 13°1.87'W approximately 109 feet to a point with coordinates N556296.367, E1210782.226, thence running S46 46°58.97'W approximately 141 feet to a point with coordinates N556199.527, E1210679.164, thence running N88 13°1.77'W approximately 700 feet to a point with coordinates N556221.305, E1209979.502, thence running N01 46°58.08'E approximately 250 feet to a point with coordinates N556471.184, E1209987.280, thence running S88 13°1.77'E approximately 815 feet to a point with coordinates N556445.828, E1210801.886, thence running N01 46°58.08'E approximately 570 feet to the point of origin.

**SEC. 343. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESERVOIR PERMIT REVIEW.**

Section 1119(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2347 note) is amended by striking “owned or operated by the Secretary”.

**SEC. 344. PROJECT MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT.**

Section 1203(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3805) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “For fiscal years 2019 and 2020” and inserting “Until September 30, 2024”.

**SEC. 345. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.**

For fiscal years 2021 through 2024, in carrying out section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330), the Secretary shall give priority to a project to restore and protect an aquatic ecosystem or estuary that—

(1) is located in the South Platte River Basin;

(2) is located on a body of water that is identified by the applicable State pursuant to section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)) as being impaired;

(3) has the potential to provide flood risk management and recreational benefits in addition to ecosystem restoration benefits; and

(4) is located in a city with a population of 80,000 or less.

**SEC. 346. SURPLUS WATER CONTRACTS AND WATER STORAGE AGREEMENTS.**

Section 1046(c)(3) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1254; 132 Stat. 3784) is amended by striking “12” and inserting “16”.

**SEC. 347. NO WAKE ZONES IN NAVIGATION CHANNELS.**

Section 1149 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 1223 note) amended—

(1) by striking “recreational” in each place it appears and inserting “covered”; and

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED NAVIGATION CHANNEL.—The term ‘covered navigation channel’ means a navigation channel that—

“(A) is federally marked or maintained;

“(B) is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; and

“(C) is adjacent to a marina.

“(2) COVERED VESSEL.—The term ‘covered vessel’ means a recreational vessel or an uninspected passenger vessel, as such terms are defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.”

**SEC. 348. LIMITATION ON CONTRACT EXECUTION IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN.**

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED CONTRACT.—In this section, the term “covered contract” means a contract between any local governmental entity and the Secretary for water supply storage in a Federal or non-Federal hydropower lake within the Arkansas River Basin.

(b) LIMITATION.—For any new covered contract for a hydropower lake that is entered into during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2022, a local governmental entity shall not pay more than 110 percent of the initial principal cost for the acre-feet being sought for the new covered contract for that hydropower lake.

**SEC. 349. WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF DAMAGES RELATED TO CERTAIN CONTRACT CLAIMS.**

In a case in which the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or other court of competent jurisdiction has rendered a decision during the period beginning on December 1, 2017, and ending on December 31, 2022, awarding damages to a contractor relating to the adjudication of claims arising from the construction of an authorized water resources development project, notwithstanding the terms of the Project Partnership Agreement, the Secretary shall waive payment of the share of the non-Federal interest of those damages, including attorney’s fees, if—

(1)(A) the contracting officer was instructed by the Corps of Engineers to modify the terms of the contract or terminate the contract; and

(B) the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or other court of competent jurisdiction determined that the failure of the contracting officer to timely take the action described in subparagraph (A) was a material breach of the contract that resulted in damages to the contractor awarded by the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or the court, as applicable; or

(2) the claims arose from construction of a project deauthorized under this title.

**SEC. 350. REDUCED PRICING FOR CERTAIN WATER SUPPLY STORAGE.**

Section 322 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2324) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “2,000,000” and inserting “3,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

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

(B) by striking “means a community” and inserting the following: “means—  
“(1) a community”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) a regional water system that serves a population of less than 100,000, for which the per capita income is less than the per capita income of not less than 50 percent of the counties in the United States.”

**SEC. 351. FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

Section 103(k) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213) is amended—

(1) by striking “Except as” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RENEGOTIATION OF TERMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a non-Federal interest, the Secretary and the non-Federal interest may renegotiate the terms and conditions of an eligible deferred payment, including—

“(i) permitting the non-Federal contribution to be made without interest, pursuant to paragraph (1);

“(ii) recalculation of the interest rate;

“(iii) full or partial forgiveness of interest accrued during the period of construction; and

“(iv) a credit against construction interest for a non-Federal investment that benefits the completion or performance of the project or separable element.

“(B) ELIGIBLE DEFERRED PAYMENT.—An eligible deferred payment agreement under subparagraph (A) is an agreement for which—

“(i) the non-Federal contribution was made with interest;

“(ii) the period of project construction exceeds 10 years from the execution of a project partnership agreement or appropriation of funds; and

“(iii) the construction interest exceeds \$45,000,000.

“(3) CREDIT FOR NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to credit any costs incurred by the non-Federal interest (including in-kind contributions) to remedy a design or construction deficiency of a covered project or separable element toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the covered project, if the Secretary determines the remedy to be integral to the completion or performance of the covered project.

“(B) CREDIT OF COSTS.—If the non-Federal interest incurs costs or in-kind contributions for a project to remedy a design or construction deficiency of a project or separable element which has a 100 percent Federal cost share, and the Secretary determines the remedy to be integral to the completion or performance of the project, the Secretary is authorized to credit such costs to any interest accrued on a deferred non-Federal contribution.

“(4) TREATMENT OF PRE-PAYMENT.—Notwithstanding a deferred payment agreement with a non-Federal interest, the Secretary shall accept, without interest of any type, the repayment of a non-Federal contribution for any eligible deferred payment described in paragraph (2)(B) for which—

“(A) the non-Federal interest makes a payment of at least \$200 million for that eligible deferred payment agreement on or before September 30, 2021; and

“(B) the non-Federal interest repays the remaining principal by September 30, 2023.”

**SEC. 352. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL PROJECTS.**

(a) **CONSISTENCY WITH REPORTS.**—Congress finds that the project modifications described in this section are in accordance with the reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d), titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development”, or have otherwise been reviewed by Congress.

**(b) MODIFICATIONS.**

(1) **SACRAMENTO AREA, CALIFORNIA.**—Section 219(f)(23) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 117 Stat. 1840) is amended to read as follows:

“(23) **SACRAMENTO AREA, CALIFORNIA.**—\$45,000,000 for regional water conservation, recycling, reliability, and resiliency projects in Placer, El Dorado, and Sacramento Counties and the San Juan Suburban Water District, California.”

(2) **SOUTH PERRIS, CALIFORNIA.**—Section 219(f)(52) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 114 Stat. 2763A–220) is amended by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

(3) **MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.**—Section 219(f)(55) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 114 Stat. 2763A–221) is amended by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$45,000,000”.

(4) **SOUTHERN AND EASTERN KENTUCKY.**—Section 531 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3773; 113 Stat. 348; 117 Stat. 142; 121 Stat. 1226) is amended—

(A) in subsection (g), by inserting “Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Lincoln,” after “Lee,”; and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(5) **DESOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.**—Section 219(f)(30) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 114 Stat. 2763A–220; 119 Stat. 282; 119 Stat. 2257; 122 Stat. 1623) is amended by striking “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$130,000,000”.

(6) **JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.**—Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 1494; 121 Stat. 1258) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “water supply and” and inserting “water supply, projects for stormwater and drainage systems, and”; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “\$32,500,000” and inserting “\$57,500,000”.

(7) **ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.**—Section 219(f)(32) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 337; 121 Stat. 1233) is amended by striking “\$35,000,000” and inserting “\$70,000,000”.

(8) **MIDWEST CITY, OKLAHOMA.**—Section 219(f)(231) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 121 Stat. 1266) is amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

(9) **SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.**—Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4845; 109 Stat. 407; 110 Stat. 3723; 113 Stat. 310; 117 Stat. 142; 121 Stat. 1146) is amended—

(A) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$400,000,000”; and

(B) in subsection (h)(2), by inserting “Beaver, Jefferson,” after “Washington.”

(10) **LAKES MARION AND MOULTRIE, SOUTH CAROLINA.**—Section 219(f)(25) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 114 Stat. 2763A–220; 117 Stat. 1838; 130 Stat. 1677; 132 Stat. 3818) is amended by striking “\$89,550,000” and inserting “\$110,000,000”.

(11) **EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS.**—Section 219(f)(269) of the Water Resources Develop-

ment Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 121 Stat. 1268) is amended by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”.

(12) **WESTERN RURAL WATER.**—Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 383; 117 Stat. 139; 117 Stat. 142; 117 Stat. 1836; 118 Stat. 440; 121 Stat. 1219; 123 Stat. 2851; 128 Stat. 1316; 130 Stat. 1681) is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting “**WESTERN RURAL WATER.**”;

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting “Arizona,” before “rural Idaho”;

(C) in subsection (c), by inserting “Arizona,” before “Idaho”; and

(D) in subsection (i), by striking “for the period beginning with fiscal year 2001, \$435,000,000, to remain available until expended.” and inserting the following: “, to remain available until expended—

“(1) for the period beginning with fiscal year 2001, \$435,000,000 for Idaho, Montana, rural Nevada, New Mexico, rural Utah, and Wyoming; and

“(2) \$150,000,000 for Arizona.”

(13) **CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA.**—Section 571(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 371; 121 Stat. 1257) is amended by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(14) **SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.**—Section 340(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4856; 110 Stat. 3727; 113 Stat. 320) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$120,000,000”.

(c) **LOWELL CREEK TUNNEL, SEWARD, ALASKA.**—Section 5032(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–114, 121 Stat. 1205) is amended by striking “15” and inserting “20”.

(d) **CAPE ARUNDEL DISPOSAL SITE, MAINE.**—Section 1312 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3821) is amended by striking “December 31, 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

**SEC. 353. PROJECT MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATIONS.**

(a) **WATER SUPPLY.**—The following project modifications for water supply, as identified in the report entitled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” dated February 2019, and submitted to Congress on June 3, 2019, pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the recommendations included in such report pursuant to section 301(c) of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b(c)) and as follows:

(1) **CLARENCE CANNON DAM AND MARK TWAIN LAKE PROJECT, SALT RIVER, MISSOURI.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The project for Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake Project, Salt River, Missouri, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1189; 79 Stat. 1089; 95 Stat. 1684), is modified to release 5,600 acre-feet of future use water supply storage to the Federal Government under water supply contract No. DACW43–88–C–0036, and future financial obligations for such volume of storage.

(B) **RELIEF OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.**—Upon execution of the amendment required by subparagraph (C), the State of Missouri shall be relieved of the obligation to pay the percentage of the annual operation and maintenance expense, the percentage of major replacement cost, and the percentage of major rehabilitation costs, of the joint use facilities of the project described in subparagraph (A), that are attributable to water supply storage space not being used by the State during the period before the State commences use of the storage space.

(C) **AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT.**—The Secretary shall amend Water Supply Contract

No. DACW43–88–C–0036, dated March 10, 1988, between the United States and the State of Missouri, to implement the modifications required under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) **CITY OF PLATTSBURG.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The project for Smithville Lake, Missouri, authorized pursuant to section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 1080), is modified to release the City of Plattsburg, Missouri, from—

(i) 8,850 acre-feet of future water supply storage contracts; and

(ii) future financial obligations for the volume of storage described in clause (i).

(B) **AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT.**—The Secretary shall amend water supply contract No. DACW41–73–C–0008, between the United States and the State of Missouri, to implement the modifications under subparagraph (A).

(3) **CITY OF SMITHVILLE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The project for Smithville Lake, Missouri, authorized pursuant to section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 1080), is modified to release the City of Smithville, Missouri, from—

(i) 6,000 acre-feet of future water supply storage contracts; and

(ii) future financial obligations for the volume of storage described in clause (i).

(B) **AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT.**—The Secretary shall amend water supply contract No. DACW41–73–C–0007, between the United States and the State of Missouri, to implement the modifications under subparagraph (A).

(b) **FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.**—The following project modifications for flood risk management, as identified in a report entitled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development”, and submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary:

(1) Modification of the project for flood risk management, lower Mississippi River, authorized by the Act of May 15, 1928 (chapter 569, 45 Stat. 534), to incorporate the Wolf River Backwater and Nonconnah Creek levee systems into the project, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (chapter 688, 49 Stat. 1575; 50 Stat. 881), subject to the determination of the Secretary that such systems meet all requirements applicable to such project.

(2) Modification of the project for flood risk management, Red River below Denison Dam, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, authorized by the Act of June 28, 1938 (chapter 795, 52 Stat. 1219), to incorporate the Cherokee Park Levee into the project, subject to the determination of the Secretary that such levee meets all requirements applicable to such project.

**SEC. 354. COMPLETION OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR ACTIVITIES.**

(a) **EXPEDITED COMPLETIONS.**—

(1) **UPPER SNAKE RIVER BASIN.**—The Secretary shall expedite, in coordination with State, Tribal, and local authorities, the completion of maintenance and repair activities for those elements of the levee systems in the Upper Snake River Basin, authorized pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 179), that are operated and maintained by the Secretary.

(2) **LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN.**—The Secretary shall expedite, in coordination with State and local authorities and stakeholders, the completion of maintenance and repair activities for those elements of the levee systems in the Lower Missouri River Basin, authorized pursuant to the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program (authorized by section 9(b) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665, 58 Stat. 891)) or the Missouri

River Bank Stabilization and Navigation project (authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59 Stat. 19)), that are operated and maintained by the Secretary.

(3) COOS BAY NORTH JETTY SYSTEM, OREGON.—The Secretary shall expedite, in coordination with State and local authorities and stakeholders, the completion of maintenance and repair activities for those elements of the Coos Bay North Jetty system, Oregon, authorized by the first section of the Act of January 21, 1927 (chapter 47, 44 Stat. 1014), that are operated and maintained by the Secretary.

(4) INDIAN RIVER INLET AND BAY, DELAWARE.—The Secretary shall expedite, in coordination with State and local authorities, the completion of maintenance and repair activities for the elements of the project for navigation, Indian River Inlet and Bay, Delaware, authorized by the Act of August 26, 1937 (chapter 832, 50 Stat. 846), that are operated and maintained by the Secretary.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects the responsibility of the Secretary to comply with the requirements of any Federal law in carrying out the activities required to be expedited by this section.

#### SEC. 355. PROJECT REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) MUDDY RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—The separable elements for ecosystem restoration of the project for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration, Muddy River, Brookline and Boston, Massachusetts, authorized by section 522 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2656), and deauthorized pursuant to section 6001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1345), are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary, subject to subsection (b).

(2) EAST CHESTER CREEK, NEW YORK.—Notwithstanding section 1001 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a), the project for navigation, East Chester Creek, New York, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 164; 100 Stat. 4181), and deauthorized pursuant to section 1001 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579(a)), is authorized to be carried out by the Secretary, subject to subsection (b).

(3) CHRISTIANSTED HARBOR, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Notwithstanding section 1002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4221), the portion of the project for navigation, Christiansted Harbor, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 167), and deauthorized under section 1002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4221), is authorized to be carried out by the Secretary, subject to subsection (b).

(4) CHARLOTTE AMALIE (ST. THOMAS) HARBOR, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Notwithstanding section 1002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4221), the portion of the project for navigation, Charlotte Amalie (St. Thomas) Harbor, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, authorized by the Act of August 26, 1937 (chapter 832, 50 Stat. 850), and deauthorized under section 1002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4221), is authorized to be carried out by the Secretary, subject to subsection (b).

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall complete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a post-authorization change report (as such term is defined in section 1132(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of

2016 (33 U.S.C. 2282e(d)) prior to carrying out a project identified in subsection (a).

#### SEC. 356. CONVEYANCES.

(a) GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—

(1) SURVEY TO OBTAIN LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The exact acreage and the legal description of any real property to be conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Secretary.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF PROPERTY SCREENING PROVISIONS.—Section 2696 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to any conveyance under this section.

(3) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—An entity to which a conveyance is made under this section shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the conveyance.

(4) LIABILITY.—An entity to which a conveyance is made under this section shall hold the United States harmless from any liability with respect to activities carried out, on or after the date of the conveyance, on the real property conveyed. The United States shall remain responsible for any liability with respect to activities carried out, before such date, on the real property conveyed.

(5) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that any conveyance under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(b) EUFAULA, ALABAMA.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the City of Eufaula, Alabama, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property described in the Department of the Army Lease No. DACW01-2-17-0747, containing 56.76 acres, more or less, and being a part of Tracts L-1268 (26.12 acres), L-1273 (13.71 acres), L-1278 (6.75 acres), and L1279 (10.36 acres) of the Walter F. George Lock and Dam and Lake project.

(2) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The City of Eufaula, Alabama, shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the City of Montgomery, Alabama, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROPERTY.—The property to be conveyed is the 62.38 acres of land and water under the primary jurisdiction of the Secretary in the R.E. “Bob” Woodruff Project Area that is covered by lease number DACW01-1-05-0037, including the parcels and structure known as “Powder Magazine”.

(3) DEADLINE.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall complete the conveyance under this subsection by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, to include retaining the right to inundate with water any land transferred under this subsection.

(5) CONSIDERATION.—The City of Montgomery, Alabama, shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) CONVEYANCE OF WILMINGTON HARBOR NORTH DISPOSAL AREA, DELAWARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, the Secretary shall complete the conveyance of the Wilmington Harbor North Disposal Area confined disposal facility, Delaware, to the State of Delaware.

(2) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The State of Delaware shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) OHIO RIVER LOCK AND DAM NUMBER 52, MASSAC COUNTY, ILLINOIS.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the Massac-Metropolis Port District, Illinois, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any real property located north of the south bank of the Ohio River in Massac County, Illinois, that is associated with the Ohio River Lock and Dam 52.

(2) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The Massac-Metropolis Port District, Illinois, shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, upon request—

(A) convey, without consideration, to the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, or its designee, all or substantially all of the real property owned by the United States adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, subject to the right of the Secretary to retain any easements in such property solely to the extent necessary to continue to operate and maintain the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam; and

(B) provide, without consideration, to the City or its designee—

(i) access and use rights by license, easement, or similar agreement, to any real property and structures at the site of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam that is not conveyed under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) for any such property retained by the Secretary, exclusive license or easement over such property to allow the City or its designee to construct, use, and operate amenities thereon, and to utilize such property as a comprehensive recreational, touristic, and interpretive experience.

(2) OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF LOCK AND DAM.—Ownership rights to the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam shall not be conveyed under this subsection, and the Secretary shall retain all rights to operate and maintain the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.

(3) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the property conveyed under this subsection is not used for a public purpose, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

(4) UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam” means the lock and dam located on Mississippi River Mile 853.9 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

(g) CLINTON, MISSOURI.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the City of Clinton,

Missouri, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROPERTY.—The property to be conveyed is a tract of land situated in the S ½ of Section 12 and the N ½ of Section 13, Township 41 North, Range 26 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Henry County, Missouri, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of the north line of said S ½ of Section 12 and the easterly right-of-way of State Highway No. 13; thence easterly along the north line of said S ½ to the northeast corner of the W ½ NW ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼ of said Section 12; thence southerly along the east line of said W ½ NW ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼ to the southeast corner thereof; thence easterly along the north line of the S ½ NE ¼ SW ¼ of said Section 12 to the southwest corner of the W ½ NW ¼ NW ¼ SE ¼ of said Section 12; thence in a northeasterly direction to the northeast corner of said W ½ NW ¼ NW ¼ SE ¼; thence easterly along the north line of said S ½ to the westerly right-of-way of the County Road; thence in a southeasterly and southerly direction along the westerly right-of-way of said County Road approximately 2500 feet to the center of Deer Creek; thence in a southwesterly direction along the center of said Deer Creek, approximately 3900 feet to the south line of said N ½ of Section 13; thence westerly along the south line of said N ½ to the easterly right-of-way line of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad; thence in a northwesterly direction along the easterly right-of-way of said railroad to the easterly right-of-way of said State Highway No. 13; thence in a northeasterly direction along the easterly right-of-way of said State Highway No. 13 to the point of the beginning; and including a roadway easement for ingress and egress, described as a strip of land 80 feet in width, lying 40 feet on each side of the following described line, the initial extremities of the following described strip being extended or reduced as required to exactly adjoin the boundary lines which they meet, situated in the S ½ of Section 12, Township 41 North Range 26 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Henry County, Missouri, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the center of said Section 12, thence S1°24'56"W, 1265.52 feet to a point, thence N88°29'02"W, 483.97 feet to the point of beginning of the strip of land herein described; thence in a northeasterly direction along a curve to the right, said curve having an initial tangent bearing of N3°44'41"E, a radius of 238.73 feet and an interior angle of 61°29'26", an arc distance of 256.21 feet to a point; thence N65°14'07"E 218.58 feet to a point; thence in a northeasterly direction along a curve to the left, having a radius of 674.07 feet and an interior angle of 36°00'01", an arc distance of 423.53 feet to a point; thence N29°14'07"E, 417.87 feet to a point; thence northeasterly along a curve to the right, having a radius of 818.51 feet and an interior angle of 14°30'01", an arc distance of 207.15 feet to a point; thence N43°44'07"E, 57.00 feet to the southerly right-of-way line of a county road, containing 2,948 acres, more or less; Excluding therefrom a tract of land situated in the S ½ of said Section 12, said Township and Range, described as commencing at the center of said Section 12; thence S1°24'56"W, 1265.52 feet to the point of beginning of the tract of land herein described; thence N88°29'02"W, 1122.50 feet; thence S1°43'26"W, 872.62 feet; thence S88°29'02"E, 1337.36 feet; thence N1°43'26"E, 872.62 feet; thence N88°29'02"W, 214.86 feet to the point of beginning, containing 26.79 acres, more or less. The above described tract contains, in the aggregate, 177.69 acres, more or less.

(3) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(4) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the property conveyed under this subsection is not being used for a public purpose, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

(h) CITY OF CLINTON, OLD ORCHARD ADDITION, MISSOURI.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the City of Clinton, Missouri, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROPERTY.—The property to be conveyed is Lot 28 in Old Orchard Addition, a subdivision of the City of Clinton, Henry County, Missouri, containing 0.36 acres, more or less, including any improvements thereon.

(3) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, including such reservations, terms, and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to allow the United States to operate and maintain the Harry S. Truman Reservoir Project.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—The City of Clinton, Missouri, shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) TRI-COUNTY LEVEE DISTRICT, MISSOURI.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall convey to the Tri-County Levee District, Missouri, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROPERTY.—The property to be conveyed is the part of Sections 1 and 12 Township 45 North Range 6 West of the 5th P.M. in Montgomery County, Missouri, described as follows: A tract of land being 60' wide and lying South and East of and adjoining the centerline of the existing levee and being described as follows: Commencing at the NW corner of Section 12, thence S 87° 52' 35" E 587.4', thence S 01° 29' 25" W 453.68' to the point of the beginning; said point being in the center of the levee, thence with the centerline of the levee N 77° 01' 30" E 164.92', thence N 74° 26' 55" E 250.0', thence N 72° 27' 55" E 270.0', thence N 69° 06' 10" E 300.0', thence N 66° 42' 15" E 500.0', thence N 64° 14' 30" E 270.0', thence N 61° 09' 10" E 800.0', thence N 60° 58' 15" E 1724.45', thence leaving the centerline S 01° 10' 35" W 69.43', thence parallel with the above described centerline S 60° 58' 15" W 1689.62', thence S 61° 09' 10" W 801.71', thence S 64° 14' 30" W 272.91', thence S 66° 42' 15" W 502.55', thence S 69° 06' 10" W 303.02', thence S 72° 27' 55" W 272.8', thence S 74° 26' 55" W 252.39', thence S 77° 01' 30" W 181.75', thence leaving the South side of the levee N 01° 26' 25" E 61.96' to the point of beginning and containing 5.89 acres more or less.

(3) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—The Tri-County Levee District, Missouri, shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(j) JUDGE JOSEPH BARKER, JR., HOUSE, OHIO.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term "non-Federal entity" means the Friends of Joseph Barker, Jr., House, a nonprofit organization in the State of Ohio.

(2) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (6), the Secretary shall convey to the non-Federal entity, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in paragraph (3)(A).

(B) EASEMENT.—Upon conveyance of the property under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal entity, without consideration, an easement over the property described in paragraph (3)(B) for access to the conveyed property for as long as the non-Federal entity is in legal possession of the conveyed property.

(3) DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPERTY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in paragraph (2)(A) is the following (as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act):

(i) JUDGE JOSEPH BARKER, JR., HOUSE.—The tract of land situated in the State of Ohio, Washington County, on the Ohio River, and being particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point located on the southern right-of-way line of Ohio Route 7, a new corner to the land now or formerly owned by the United States of America; thence, leaving the right-of-way of said Route 7 and severing the land of said United States of America parallel to and approximately 10 feet easterly of the toe of the existing dredge disposal berm, southeasterly approximately 326 feet to a point prior to the current Corps of Engineers access to the dredging spoil area; thence, northeasterly approximately 480 feet paralleling the top of the slope to the riverbank side of the house and approximately 25 feet northerly therefrom; thence, northwest approximately 302 feet to a point in the southern right-of-way of Ohio Route 7; thence with the right-of-way of said Route 7, southwesterly approximately 485 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 3.51 acres.

(ii) ROAD TRACT.—The tract of land situated in the State of Ohio, Washington County, on the Ohio River, and being particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point located on the southern right-of-way line of Ohio Route 7, a new corner to the land now or formerly owned by the United States of America; thence, leaving the right-of-way of said Route 7 and severing the land of said United States of America and with the House Parcel southeasterly 25 feet; thence, northeast, running parallel to said Route 7 right-of-way, approximately 994 feet to a point of deflection; thence northeasterly 368 feet to a point beyond the existing fence corner; thence, east 140 feet to the edge of the existing Willow Island access road; thence with said access road, northwesterly approximately 62 feet to a point in the southern right-of-way of Ohio Route 7; thence with the right-of-way of said Route 7, southwesterly approximately 1,491 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 1 acre.

(B) EASEMENT.—The property referred to in paragraph (2)(B) is the following: The tract of land situated in the State of Ohio, Washington County, on the Ohio River, and being particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point at the intersection of the southern right-of-way of Ohio Route 7 and the northeast side of the existing Willow Island access road, a new corner to the land now or formerly owned by the United States of America; thence, southwest, running with said Route 7 right-of-way, approximately 30 feet to a point on the southwest side of the existing access road, and

corner to the road tract; thence with said access road and the line of the road parcel, southeasterly approximately 62 feet to a point; thence leaving the road parcel and crossing the existing access road northeasterly approximately 30 feet to a point located on the northeast side of the existing access road; thence, northwesterly approximately 62 feet, to the point of beginning, containing approximately 0.04 acre.

(4) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(5) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the property conveyed under this subsection is not being used by the non-Federal entity for a public purpose, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

(6) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall make such improvements and alterations to the property described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) as the Secretary, in consultation with the non-Federal entity and relevant stakeholders, determines to be appropriate to facilitate conveyance of the property and provision of the easement under this subsection, subject to the condition that the total cost of those improvements and alterations undertaken by the Secretary shall be not more than \$120,000.

(B) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Before making a conveyance under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(i) conduct, with respect to the property to be conveyed, an assessment of the environmental condition of the property, including an investigation of any potential hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste present on such property; and

(ii) submit to the non-Federal entity a report describing the results of such assessment.

(C) REFUSAL BY NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon review by the non-Federal entity of the report under subparagraph (B), the non-Federal entity may elect to refuse the conveyance under this subsection.

(ii) ELECTION.—An election under clause (i)—

(I) shall be at the sole discretion of the non-Federal entity; and

(II) shall be made by the non-Federal entity by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of submission of the report under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(D) DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(i) notify and coordinate with the non-Federal entity and relevant stakeholders before carrying out any dredged material placement activities associated with the property described in paragraph (3)(A) after the date on which such property is conveyed under this subsection; and

(ii) in carrying out a dredged material placement activity under clause (i), act in accordance with Engineer Manual EM 1110-2-5025 (or a subsequent version of that manual).

(7) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary may reserve and retain from any conveyance under this subsection a right-of-way or any other right that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the authorized Federal channel along the Ohio River.

(8) TREATMENT.—Conveyance to the non-Federal entity under this subsection of property described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) shall satisfy all obligations of the Secretary with respect to such property under—

(A) section 306101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(B) section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, with respect to the effects on the property of dredged material placement activities carried out by the Secretary after the date of the conveyances.

(9) INAPPLICABILITY.—Subtitle I of title 40, and chapter 4 of title 41, United States Code shall not apply to any conveyance or easement provided under this subsection.

(K) LEABURG FISH HATCHERY, LANE COUNTY, OREGON.—

(1) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall convey, without consideration, to the State of Oregon, acting through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property comprising the Leaburg Fish Hatchery, consisting of approximately 21.55 acres, identified as tracts Q-1500, Q-1501E, and 300E-1 and described in Department of the Army Lease No. DACW57-1-18-0009, together with any improvements on the property.

(2) WATER RIGHTS.—The Secretary may transfer to the State of Oregon, acting through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, any water rights held by the United States that are appurtenant to the property conveyed under this subsection.

(3) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, including a condition that all of the property conveyed under this subsection be used and maintained by the State of Oregon for the purpose of operating a fish hatchery in perpetuity.

(4) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the property conveyed under this subsection is not being used or maintained by the State of Oregon for the purpose of operating a fish hatchery in perpetuity, all or any portion of the property, including any water rights transferred under this subsection, shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(5) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—If the State of Oregon does not accept the conveyance under this subsection, the Secretary may dispose of the property, including appurtenant water rights, under subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.

(1) WILLAMETTE FALLS LOCKS, WILLAMETTE RIVER, OREGON.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) REAL ESTATE APPENDIX.—The term “real estate appendix” means Appendix A of the document published by the District Commander of the Portland District of the Corps of Engineers, titled “Willamette Falls Locks Willamette River Oregon Section 216 Disposition Study with Integrated Environmental Assessment”.

(B) RECEIVING ENTITY.—The term “receiving entity” means an entity identified by the State of Oregon, in consultation with the Willamette Falls Locks Commission, to receive the conveyance under paragraph (2).

(C) WILLAMETTE FALLS LOCKS PROJECT.—The term “Willamette Falls Locks project” means the project for navigation, Willamette Falls Locks, Willamette River, Oregon, authorized by the Act of June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 664, chapter 382).

(D) WILLAMETTE FALLS LOCKS REPORT.—The term “Willamette Falls Locks report” means the memorandum of the Director of Civil Works with the subject “Willamette Falls Locks (WFL), Willamette River Oregon Section 216 Disposition Study with Integrated Environmental Assessment (Study)”, dated July 11, 2019.

(2) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to convey to the receiv-

ing entity, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any land in which the Federal Government has a property interest for the Willamette Falls Locks project, together with any improvements on the land, subject to the requirements of this subsection and in accordance with the Willamette Falls Locks report.

(3) DEED.—The Secretary shall convey the property under this subsection by quitclaim deed under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(4) SUBJECT TO EXISTING EASEMENTS AND OTHER INTERESTS.—The conveyance of property under paragraph (2) shall be subject to all existing deed reservations, easements, rights-of-way, and leases that are in effect as of the date of the conveyance.

(5) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the property conveyed under this subsection cease to be held in public ownership, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

(6) REQUIREMENTS BEFORE CONVEYANCE.—

(A) PERPETUAL ROAD EASEMENT.—Before making the conveyance under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall acquire a perpetual road easement from an adjacent property owner for use of an access road, which easement shall convey with the property conveyed under such paragraph.

(B) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Before making the conveyance under paragraph (2), in accordance with the real estate appendix, the Secretary shall complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(C) HISTORIC PRESERVATION.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that identifies actions the Secretary shall take before making the conveyance under paragraph (2).

(D) REPAIRS.—Before making the conveyance under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out repairs to address primary seismic and safety risks in accordance with the recommendations approved in the Willamette Falls Locks report.

(7) DEAUTHORIZATION.—Beginning on the date on which the Secretary makes the conveyance under paragraph (2), the Willamette Falls Locks project is no longer authorized.

**SEC. 357. LAKE EUFAULA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Section 3133(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1141) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) TERMINATION.—The committee shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the committee submits final recommendations to the Secretary.”.

**SEC. 358. REPEAL OF MISSOURI RIVER TASK FORCE, NORTH DAKOTA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2696) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PURPOSES.—Section 702(b)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2695) is amended by inserting “prepared under section 705(e) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020)” before the period at the end.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 703 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2695) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

**SEC. 359. REPEAL OF MISSOURI RIVER TASK FORCE, SOUTH DAKOTA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2709) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PURPOSES.—Section 902(b)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2708) is amended by inserting “prepared under section 905(e) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020)” before the period at the end.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 903 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2708) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (4); and  
(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

**SEC. 360. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

(a) Section 710 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2264), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

(b) Section 1001 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

(c) Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (c), the Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”;

(B) by striking “subsections (a) and (c)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(d) Section 6003 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 579c), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

(e) Section 1301 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 579d), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

(f) Section 1302 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 579c-1), and

the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

(g) Section 1301 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 579d-1), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

(h) Section 1302 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 579c-2), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents, are repealed.

**TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SEC. 401. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.**

The following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, described in the respective reports or decision documents designated in this section:

(1) NAVIGATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. AK	Port of Nome Modifications	May 29, 2020	Federal: \$378,908,000 Non-Federal: \$126,325,000 Total: \$505,233,000
2. AK	St. George Harbor Improvement, St. George	August 13, 2020	Federal: \$147,874,000 Non-Federal: \$16,508,000 Total: \$164,382,000
3. AK	Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) Channels	February 7, 2020	Federal: \$26,967,000 Non-Federal: \$8,989,000 Total: \$35,956,000
4. CT	New Haven Harbor Navigation Improvement Project	May 7, 2020	Federal: \$55,250,000 Non-Federal: \$19,442,000 Total: \$74,692,000
5. NY, NJ	New York and New Jersey Harbor Anchorages	April 23, 2020	Federal: \$19,550,000 Non-Federal: \$6,520,000 Total: \$26,070,000
6. TX	Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazos River Floodgates and Colorado River Locks	October 23, 2019	Total: \$414,144,000
7. TX	Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project, Harris, Chambers, and Galveston Counties	April 23, 2020	Federal: \$625,204,000 Non-Federal: \$260,431,000 Total: \$885,635,000
8. TX	Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project, Port Lavaca	November 15, 2019	Federal: \$140,156,000 Non-Federal: \$80,500,000 Total: \$220,656,000
9. VA	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, North Landing Bridge Replacement	August 25, 2020	Federal: \$102,755,000 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$102,755,000

(2) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. AZ	Little Colorado River at Winslow, Navajo County	December 14, 2018	Federal: \$54,260,000 Non-Federal: \$29,217,000 Total: \$83,477,000
2. CA	Westminster, East Garden Grove, California Flood Risk Management	July 9, 2020	Federal: \$324,905,000 Non-Federal: \$940,191,000 Total: \$1,265,096,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
3. CT, NY	Westchester County Streams, Byram River Basin, Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York	May 7, 2020	Federal: \$15,199,000 Non-Federal: \$15,199,000 Total: \$30,397,000
4. KY	Louisville Metropolitan Flood Protection System Reconstruction, Jefferson and Bullitt Counties	October 27, 2020	Federal: \$122,170,000 Non-Federal: \$65,917,000 Total: \$188,087,000
5. ND	Souris River Basin Flood Risk Management	April 16, 2019	Federal: \$59,582,915 Non-Federal: \$32,364,085 Total: \$91,947,000
6. NJ	Peckman River Basin	April 29, 2020	Federal: \$98,137,000 Non-Federal: \$52,843,000 Total: \$150,980,000
7. NM	Middle Rio Grande Flood Protection, Bernalillo to Belen	March 13, 2020	Federal: \$201,944,451 Non-Federal: \$108,740,000 Total: \$310,684,000
8. OK	Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee System, Tulsa County	April 23, 2020	Federal: \$89,311,000 Non-Federal: \$48,091,000 Total: \$137,402,000
9. PR	Rio Culebrinas at Aguiadilla and Aguada	August 17, 2020	Federal: \$17,295,600 Non-Federal: \$8,568,400 Total: \$25,864,000
10. PR	Rio Guayanilla Flood Risk Management, Guayanilla	August 13, 2020	Federal: \$103,422,000 Non-Federal: \$55,689,000 Total: \$159,111,000
11. PR	Rio Grande de Manati Flood Risk Management, Ciales	November 18, 2020	Federal: \$9,770,000 Non-Federal: \$4,520,000 Total: \$14,290,000
12. USVI	Savan Gut, St. Thomas	August 24, 2020	Federal: \$48,658,100 Non-Federal: \$25,455,900 Total: \$74,114,000
13. USVI	Turpentine Run, St. Thomas	August 17, 2020	Federal: \$29,817,850 Non-Federal: \$15,311,150 Total: \$45,129,000

## (3) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. DE	Delaware Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for the Delaware River	March 6, 2020	Initial Federal: \$66,464,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$35,789,000 Total: \$102,253,000 Renourishment Federal: \$120,023,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$120,023,000 Renourishment Total: \$240,046,000
2. NJ	New Jersey Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for the Delaware River	April 8, 2020	Initial Federal: \$84,071,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$45,270,000 Total: \$129,341,000 Renourishment Federal: \$85,495,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$85,495,000 Renourishment Total: \$170,990,000
3. NJ	Rahway River Basin, New Jersey Coastal Storm Risk Management	June 9, 2020	Federal: \$48,322,000 Non-Federal: \$26,020,000 Total: \$74,342,000
4. NJ	Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, Highlands	August 25, 2020	Federal: \$107,680,000 Non-Federal: \$57,981,000 Total: \$165,661,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
5. NY	East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay, Atlantic Coast of New York	August 22, 2019	Initial Federal: \$638,460,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$638,460,000 Renourishment Federal: \$200,924,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$200,924,000 Renourishment Total: \$401,847,000
6. NY	Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York Reformulation	July 9, 2020	Initial Federal: \$1,576,790,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$1,576,790,000 Renourishment Federal: \$767,695,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$767,695,000 Renourishment Total: \$1,535,390,000
7. NY	Hashamomuck Cove Coastal Storm Risk Management	December 9, 2019	Initial Federal: \$11,920,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$6,418,000 Total: \$18,338,000 Renourishment Federal: \$24,237,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$24,237,000 Renourishment Total: \$48,474,000
8. RI	Pawcatuck River Coastal Storm Risk Management Project	December 19, 2018	Federal: \$37,679,000 Non-Federal: \$20,289,000 Total: \$57,968,000
9. VA	Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management	February 5, 2019	Federal: \$942,920,000 Non-Federal: \$507,730,000 Total: \$1,450,650,000

## (4) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. CO	South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties	July 29, 2019	Federal: \$344,076,000 Non-Federal: \$206,197,000 Total: \$550,273,000

## (5) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. CA	Delta Islands and Levees	December 18, 2018	Federal: \$17,251,000 Non-Federal: \$9,289,000 Total: \$26,540,000
2. CA	Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties	November 13, 2020	Federal: \$172,249,000 Non-Federal: \$106,960,000 Total: \$279,209,000
3. CA	Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration	June 20, 2019	Federal: \$66,975,000 Non-Federal: \$36,064,000 Total: \$103,039,000
4. CO, NM, TX	Rio Grande, Environmental Management Program, Sandia Pueblo to Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico, Ecosystem Restoration	August 5, 2019	Federal: \$16,998,000 Non-Federal: \$9,153,000 Total: \$26,151,000
5. FL	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, Martin and Palm Beach Counties	April 8, 2020	Federal: \$379,583,000 Non-Federal: \$375,737,000 Total: \$755,320,000
6. IA, MO	Grand River Basin Ecosystem Restoration	November 18, 2020	Federal: \$78,876,000 Non-Federal: \$42,471,000 Total: \$121,347,000
7. IL	The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study - Brandon Road, Will County	May 23, 2019	Federal: \$557,730,550 Non-Federal: \$300,316,450 Total: \$858,047,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
8. IL	South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, Bubbly Creek, Ecosystem Restoration	July 9, 2020	Federal: \$11,657,000 Non-Federal: \$6,277,000 Total: \$17,934,000
9. MD	Anacostia Watershed Restoration, Prince George's County	December 19, 2018	Federal: \$25,866,750 Non-Federal: \$13,928,250 Total: \$39,795,000
10. MO	St. Louis Riverfront- Meramec River Basin Ecosystem Restoration	November 1, 2019	Federal: \$61,362,893 Non-Federal: \$33,042,107 Total: \$94,405,000
11. NY, NJ	Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration	May 26, 2020	Federal: \$273,933,000 Non-Federal: \$147,502,000 Total: \$421,435,000
12. NY	Hudson River Habitat Restoration	November 19, 2020	Federal: \$33,479,000 Non-Federal: \$11,159,000 Total: \$44,638,000
13. TX	Jefferson County Ecosystem Restoration	September 12, 2019	Federal: \$38,942,000 Non-Federal: \$20,969,000 Total: \$59,911,000

(6) WATER SUPPLY.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. OR	Willamette River Basin Review Re-allocation,	December 18, 2019	Federal: \$0 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$0

(7) MODIFICATIONS AND OTHER PROJECTS.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. CA	San Luis Rey Flood Control Project, San Diego County	July 24, 2020	Federal: \$143,407,500 Non-Federal: \$47,802,500 Total: \$191,210,000
2. FL	Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir (C-43 WBSR)	July 24, 2020	Federal: \$514,999,000 Non-Federal: \$514,999,000 Total: \$1,029,998,000
3. FL	Central and Southern Florida, Canal 111 (C-111) South Dade Project	September 15, 2020	Federal: \$66,736,500 Non-Federal: \$66,736,500 Total: \$133,473,000
4. KY	Kentucky Lock	June 9, 2020	Total: \$1,166,809,000
5. NC	Carolina Beach Integrated Beach Renourishment	June 16, 2020	Federal: \$25,125,000 Non-Federal: \$25,125,000 Total: \$50,250,000
6. NC	Wrightsville Beach	July 2, 2020	Federal: \$60,068,000 Non-Federal: \$18,486,000 Total: \$78,554,000 Renourishment Federal: \$18,918,900 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$10,187,100 Renourishment Total: \$29,106,000
7. TX	Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Deepening and Widening and Barge Shelves	May 4, 2020	Federal: \$406,343,000 Non-Federal: \$275,274,000 Total: \$681,617,000
8. VA	Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Deep Creek Bridge Replacement	October 19, 2020	Federal: \$59,500,000 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$59,500,000

SEC. 402. SPECIAL RULES.

(a) GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN PROJECT, BRANDON ROAD, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.—The Secretary shall carry out the project for ecosystem restoration,

Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin project, Brandon Road, Will County, Illinois, authorized by section 401 of this Act, substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the Report of the

Chief of Engineers, dated May 23, 2019, with the following modifications:

(1) The Federal share of the cost of construction shall be 80 percent.

(2) The Secretary may include the addition or substitution of technologies or measures not described in the report, as the Secretary determines to be advisable.

(b) **EAST ROCKAWAY INLET TO ROCKAWAY INLET AND JAMAICA BAY REFORMULATION, NEW YORK.**—The project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay, Atlantic Coast of New York, authorized by section 401 of this Act, shall be considered to be a continuation of the interim response to the authorization by the House of Representatives dated September 20, 1997, and the authorization under the heading “Department of the Army—Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction” under chapter 4 of title X of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (127 Stat. 24).

(c) **TULSA AND WEST-TULSA LEVEE SYSTEM, TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA.**—For the project for flood risk management, Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee System, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, authorized by section 401 of this Act, the non-Federal contribution for the project shall be financed over a period of 30 years from the date of completion of the project, in accordance with section 103(k) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(k)).

(d) **WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN REVIEW REALLOCATION STUDY.**—The Secretary shall carry out the project for water supply, Willamette River Basin Review Reallocation, Oregon, authorized by section 401 of this Act, substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated December 18, 2019, with the following modifications:

(1) The Secretary shall meet the obligations of the Corps of Engineers under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by complying with the June 2019 NMFS Willamette Basin Review Study Biological Opinion Reasonable and Prudent Alternative until such time, if any, as it is modified or replaced, in whole or in part, through the consultation process under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

(2) The Secretary may reallocate not more than 10 percent of overall storage in the joint conservation pool, as authorized by this Act and without further congressional action, if such reallocation is consistent with the ongoing consultation under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 related to Willamette Valley System operations.

(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the revised reallocation is not reallocated from a single storage use, does not seriously affect authorized project purposes, and does not otherwise involve major operational changes to the project.

(e) **CANO MARTIN PENA, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.**—Section 5127 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1242) is amended by striking “\$150,000,000” and inserting “\$255,816,000”.

**SEC. 403. AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECTS BASED ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES PREPARED BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to carry out the following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, subject to subsection (b):

(1) **FORT PIERCE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**—The project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of St. Lucie County, Florida Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project Section 203 Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (June 2018)” and dated July 2018, at a total cost of \$33,107,639,

and at an estimated total cost of \$97,958,972 for periodic nourishment over the 50-year life of the project.

(2) **BAPTISTE COLLETTE BAYOU, LOUISIANA.**—The project for navigation, Baptiste Collette Bayou, Louisiana, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Plaquemines Parish Government’s Section 203 Study Baptiste Collette Bayou Navigation Channel Deepening Project Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (January 2017, Amended April 2018)” and dated June 2018, at a total cost of \$44,920,000.

(3) **HOUMA NAVIGATION CANAL, LOUISIANA.**—The project for navigation, Houma Navigation Canal, Louisiana, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Houma Navigation Canal Deepening Project Section 203 Integrated Feasibility Report and DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (June 2018)” and dated July 2018, at a total cost of \$253,458,000.

(4) **PORT FOURCHON BELLE PASS CHANNEL, LOUISIANA.**—The project for navigation, Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel Deepening Project Section 203 Feasibility Study (January 2019, revised January 2020)” and dated April 2020, at a total cost of \$95,483,000.

(5) **WILMINGTON HARBOR, NORTH CAROLINA.**—The project for navigation, Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina Navigation Improvement Project Integrated Section 203 Study & Environmental Report (February 2020)” and dated May 2020, at a total cost of \$834,093,000.

(6) **CHACON CREEK, TEXAS.**—The project for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and other purposes, Chacon Creek, Texas, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Chacon Creek, Texas Section 203 Integrated Feasibility Report and DRAFT Environmental Assessment (August 2018)” and dated September 2018, at a total cost of \$51,973,000.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary may only carry out a project authorized under subsection (a)—

(1) substantially in accordance with the applicable review assessment for the project submitted by the Secretary under section 203(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as identified in subsection (a) of this section, and subject to such modifications or conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and identifies in a final assessment that addresses the concerns, recommendations, and conditions identified by the Secretary in the applicable review assessment; and

(2) after the Secretary transmits to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate such final assessment.

**TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

**SEC. 501. UPDATE ON INVASIVE SPECIES POLICY GUIDANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall periodically update the Invasive Species Policy Guidance, developed under section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) and the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), in accordance with the most recent National Invasive Species Council Management Plan developed pursuant to Executive Order 13112.

(b) **INCLUSION.**—The Secretary may include in the updated guidance invasive species spe-

cific efforts at federally authorized water resources development projects located in—

- (1) high-altitude lakes; and
- (2) the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins.

**SEC. 502. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.**

Section 1108 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2263a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “management” and inserting “prevention, management,”; and

(B) by inserting “, elodea, quagga mussels,” after “Asian carp”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “or could be impacted in the future” after “impacted”; and

(B) by striking “Pacific” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “Pacific, Arctic, and Gulf Coasts, the Great Lakes, and reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary.”.

**SEC. 503. TERRESTRIAL NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out a pilot program, in consultation with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds, to identify and develop new and improved strategies for terrestrial noxious weed control on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(b) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall act in partnership with such other individuals and entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may utilize cooperative agreements with county and State agencies for the implementation of the pilot program under subsection (a).

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the new and improved strategies developed through the pilot program under subsection (a).

**SEC. 504. INVASIVE SPECIES RISK ASSESSMENT, PRIORITIZATION, AND MANAGEMENT.**

Section 528(f)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3771) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) and (J) as subparagraphs (J) and (K), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

“(I) shall, using existing amounts appropriated to the Task Force, develop and update, as appropriate, a priority list of invasive species that—

“(i) reflects an assessment of ecological risk that the listed invasive species represent;

“(ii) includes populations of invasive plants and animals that—

“(I) are significantly impacting the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitat within the South Florida ecosystem; or

“(II) demonstrate a strong potential to reduce, obscure, or otherwise alter key indicators used to measure Everglades restoration progress; and

“(iii) shall be used by the Task Force and agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to focus cooperative and collaborative efforts—

“(I) to guide applied research;

“(II) to develop innovative strategies and tools to facilitate improved management,

control, or eradication of listed invasive species;

“(III) to implement specific management, control, or eradication activities at the appropriate periodicity and intensity necessary to reduce or neutralize the impacts of listed invasive species, including the use of qualified skilled volunteers when appropriate; and  
“(IV) to develop innovative strategies and tools to prevent future introductions of non-native species;”;

(3) in subparagraph (J) (as so redesignated), by striking “ecosystem” and inserting “ecosystem, including the activities described in subparagraph (L)”;

(4) in clause (i) of subparagraph (K) (as so redesignated), by inserting “, including the priority list under subparagraph (I) and the activities described in that subparagraph” after “Task Force”.

#### SEC. 505. INVASIVE SPECIES MITIGATION AND REDUCTION.

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “this section \$110,000,000” and inserting “this section (except for subsections (f) and (g)) \$130,000,000”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(iv); and

“(E) \$10,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(v).”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) OTHER PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(i) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to carry out subsection (f); and

“(ii) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to carry out subsection (g)(2).

“(B) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES PILOT PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$10,000,000 to carry out subsection (g)(3).”;

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by inserting “or (2)(A)” after “paragraph (1)”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND DECONTAMINATION” after “INSPECTION”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—  
(I) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “AND DECONTAMINATION” after “INSPECTION”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “Arizona River Basins.” and inserting “Arkansas River Basins.”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) to protect the Russian River Basin, California; and

“(v) to protect basins and watersheds that adjoin an international border between the United States and Canada.”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall place watercraft inspection and decontamination stations under subparagraph (A) at locations with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species into and out of waters of the United States, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with

the Governors and entities described in paragraph (3).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(iii)” and inserting “(v)”;

(D) by striking “watercraft inspection stations” each place it appears and inserting “watercraft inspection and decontamination stations”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘invasive species’ has the meaning given the term in section 1 of Executive Order 13112 (64 Fed. Reg. 6183; relating to invasive species (February 3, 1999)) (as amended by section 2 of Executive Order 13751 (81 Fed. Reg. 88609; relating to safeguarding the Nation from the impacts of invasive species (December 5, 2016))).

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall collaborate with States in the Upper Missouri River Basin in developing voluntary aquatic invasive species management plans to mitigate the effects of invasive species on public infrastructure facilities located on reservoirs of the Corps of Engineers in those States.

“(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of each State in the Upper Missouri River Basin that elects to participate in the pilot program, shall prepare a management plan, or update or expand an existing plan, for each participating State that identifies public infrastructure facilities located on reservoirs of the Corps of Engineers in those States that—

“(i) are affected by aquatic invasive species; and

“(ii) need financial and technical assistance in order to maintain operations.

“(B) USE OF EXISTING PLANS.—In developing a management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider a management plan submitted by a participating State under section 1204(a) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4724(a)).

“(4) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2024.

“(g) INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND ERADICATION.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘invasive species’ has the meaning given the term in section 1 of Executive Order 13112 (64 Fed. Reg. 6183; relating to invasive species (February 3, 1999)) (as amended by section 2 of Executive Order 13751 (81 Fed. Reg. 88609; relating to safeguarding the Nation from the impacts of invasive species (December 5, 2016))).

“(2) INVASIVE SPECIES PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate, to the maximum extent practicable, invasive species that adversely impact water quantity or water quality in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin.

“(B) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting actions to carry out under a partnership under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate the Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).

“(3) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a partnership between or among 2 or more entities that—

“(I) includes—

“(aa) at least 1 flood control district; and

“(bb) at least 1 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State or Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

“(II) may include any other entity (such as a nonprofit organization or institution of higher education), as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES.—The term ‘invasive plant species’ means a plant that is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, the introduction of which causes or is likely to cause economic harm or harm to human health.

“(B) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish a pilot program under which such Secretary shall work with eligible entities to carry out activities—

“(i) to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions in—

“(I) the Lower Colorado River Basin;

“(II) the Rio Grande River Basin;

“(III) the Texas Gulf Coast Basin; and

“(IV) the Arkansas-White-Red Basin;

“(ii) where appropriate, to replace the invasive plant species described in clause (i) with ecologically suitable native species; and

“(iii) to maintain and monitor riparian areas in which activities are carried out under clauses (i) and (ii).

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the implementation of the pilot program.

“(D) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2024.

“(4) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of an action carried out under a partnership under paragraph (2) or an activity carried out under the pilot program under paragraph (3) shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the action or activity.”.

#### SEC. 506. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION.

Section 1039(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 4701 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “UPPER MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVER BASINS AND TRIBUTARIES” and inserting “MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, INCLUDING SUB-BASINS”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries” and inserting “Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River.”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and the document prepared” and all that follows through “February 2012.” and inserting “the Mississippi River Basin Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework, and the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee’s Asian Carp Action Plan.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “December 31 of each year” and inserting “December 31, 2020, and biennially thereafter”;

(ii) by striking “Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries” and inserting “Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries” and inserting “Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River.”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries” and inserting “Mississippi River and tributaries, including the 6 sub-basins of the River”.

#### SEC. 507. INVASIVE SPECIES IN ALPINE LAKES PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish a pilot program (referred to in this section as the “pilot program”) to develop and carry out effective measures necessary to prevent, control, or eradicate aquatic invasive species in alpine lakes that are not located within a unit of the National Park System.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall offer to enter into a partnership to carry out the pilot program with—

(1) any relevant partnering Federal agency; and

(2) any relevant compact agency organized with the consent of Congress under article I, section 10 of the Constitution of the United States.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

#### SEC. 508. MURDER HORNET ERADICATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and in consultation with all relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a pilot program to provide financial assistance to States for management, research, and public education activities necessary to—

(1) eradicate the Asian giant hornet; and

(2) restore bee populations damaged by the Asian giant hornet.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive financial assistance under this section if the State has demonstrated to the Secretary of the Interior sufficient need to implement measures to eradicate the Asian giant hornet.

(c) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities carried out under the pilot program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities carried out under the pilot program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

(d) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided by the Secretary of the Interior under this section may be used for administrative expenses.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the pilot program \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASIAN GIANT HORNET.—The term “Asian giant hornet” means a *Vespa mandarinia*.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and insular possessions of the United States.

(g) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 509. ASIAN CARP PREVENTION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASIAN CARP PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Tennessee Valley Authority and other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out an Asian carp prevention pilot program to carry out projects to manage and prevent the spread of Asian carp using innovative technologies, methods, and measures.

(2) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(A) LOCATION.—Each project under the pilot program shall be carried out in a river system or reservoir in the Cumberland River Watershed or Tennessee River Watershed in which Asian carp populations are expanding or have been documented.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In selecting projects to carry out under the pilot program, the Secretary shall consult with—

(i) applicable Federal, State, and local agencies;

(ii) institutions of higher education; and

(iii) relevant private organizations, including nonprofit organizations.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—

(i) NUMBER OF PROJECTS.—The Secretary may select not more than 10 projects to carry out under the pilot program.

(ii) DEADLINE.—Not later than September 30, 2024, the Secretary shall complete projects selected to be carried out under the pilot program.

(3) BEST PRACTICES.—In carrying out the pilot program, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall consider existing best practices, such as those described in the document of the Asian Carp Working Group of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force entitled “Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States” and dated November 2007.

(4) COST-SHARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the costs of a project carried out under the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the project.

(B) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR.—After the completion of a project under the pilot program, the Federal share of the costs for operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and repair of the project shall be 100 percent.

(5) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—For projects carried out in reservoirs owned or managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Secretary and the Tennessee Valley Authority shall execute a memorandum of agreement establishing the framework for a partnership and the terms and conditions for sharing expertise and resources.

(6) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary is authorized to accept and expend funds from the Tennessee Valley Authority to complete any work under this section at a reservoir owned or managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(7) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the pilot program, including an analysis of the effectiveness of the innovative technologies, methods, and measures used in projects carried out under the pilot program at preventing the spread, or managing the eradicating of, Asian carp.

(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(b) FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ASIAN CARP ERADICATION PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish a program to provide financial assistance to States to implement measures, including for management, research, and public education activities, necessary to eradicate the Asian carp.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive financial assistance under this subsection if such State has demonstrated to the Secretary of the Interior sufficient need to implement measures to eradicate the Asian carp.

(3) PRIORITY.—In providing financial assistance under the program, the Secretary of the Interior shall give priority to States in the Cumberland River Watershed or the Tennessee River Watershed in which Asian carp populations are expanding or have been documented.

(4) COST SHARING.—

(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities carried out under the program may not exceed 80 percent of the total costs of such activities.

(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities carried out under the program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

(5) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided by the Secretary of the Interior under this subsection may be used for administrative expenses.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this subsection \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

#### SEC. 510. INVASIVE SPECIES IN NONCONTIGUOUS STATES AND TERRITORIES PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish a pilot program to carry out measures necessary to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive species in culturally significant forested watersheds in noncontiguous States and territories of the United States in which the Corps of Engineers is carrying out flood risk management projects.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is encouraged to carry out the measures described in subsection (a) in consultation with—

(1) States, any territory or possession of the United States, and units of local government, including federally recognized Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

(2) nonprofit organizations with knowledge of, and experience in, forested watershed management, including nonprofit organizations with a primary purpose of serving and partnering with indigenous communities.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

#### SEC. 511. SOIL MOISTURE AND SNOWPACK MONITORING.

(a) INSTALLATION OF NETWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the activities required under section 4003(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1310; 130 Stat. 1676), and to support the goals of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25) and the National Integrated

Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-423), the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (referred to in this section as the "Administrator"), the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall continue installation of a network of soil moisture and plains snowpack monitoring stations, and modification of existing stations, in the Upper Missouri River Basin.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out installation and modification activities under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) may continue to enter into agreements, including cooperative agreements, with State mesonet programs for purposes of installing new stations or modifying existing stations;

(B) shall transfer ownership and all responsibilities for operation and maintenance of new stations to the respective State mesonet program for the State in which the monitoring station is located on completion of installation of the station; and

(C) shall establish, in consultation with the Administrator, requirements and standards for the installation of new stations and modification of existing stations to ensure seamless data integration into—

(i) the National Mesonet Program;

(ii) the National Coordinated Soil Moisture Network; and

(iii) other relevant networks.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection, in addition to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for the installation of a network of soil moisture and plains snowpack monitoring stations or the modification of existing stations in the Upper Missouri River Basin, \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(b) SOIL MOISTURE AND SNOWPACK MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish within the National Mesonet Program a pilot program for the acquisition and use of data generated by the network described in subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) enter into agreements with State mesonet programs in the Upper Missouri River Basin to acquire data generated by the network described in subsection (a) that—

(i) are similar to the agreements in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act with States under the National Mesonet Program; and

(ii) allow for sharing of data with other Federal agencies and with institutions engaged in federally supported research, including the United States Drought Monitor, as appropriate and feasible;

(B) in coordination with the Secretary, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Commissioner of Reclamation, gather data from the operation of the network to inform ongoing efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in support of—

(i) the National Integrated Drought Information System, including the National Coordinated Soil Moisture Network;

(ii) the United States Drought Monitor;

(iii) the National Water Model and other relevant national modeling efforts;

(iv) validation, verification, and calibration of satellite-based, in situ, and other remote sensing activities and output products;

(v) flood risk and water resources monitoring initiatives by the Secretary and the Commissioner; and

(vi) any other programs or initiatives the Administrator considers appropriate;

(C) at the request of State mesonet programs, or as the Administrator considers appropriate, provide technical assistance to such programs under the pilot program under paragraph (1) to ensure proper data requirements; and

(D) ensure an appropriate mechanism for quality control and quality assurance is employed for the data acquired under the pilot program, such as the Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System.

(3) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall initiate a study of the pilot program required by paragraph (1) to evaluate the data generated by the network described in subsection (a) and the applications of that data to programs and initiatives described in paragraph (2)(B).

(B) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of—

(i) the contribution of the soil moisture, snowpack, and other relevant data generated by the network described in subsection (a) to weather, subseasonal and seasonal, and climate forecasting products on the local, regional, and national levels;

(ii) the enhancements made to the National Integrated Drought Information System, the National Water Model, and the United States Drought Monitor, and other relevant national modeling efforts, using data and derived data products generated by the network;

(iii) the contribution of data generated by the network to remote sensing products and approaches;

(iv) the viability of the ownership and operational structure of the network; and

(v) any other matters the Administrator considers appropriate, in coordination with the Secretary, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(4) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(A) setting forth the findings of the study required by paragraph (3); and

(B) making recommendations based on those findings to improve weather, subseasonal, seasonal, and climate monitoring nationally.

(5) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AUDIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the report required by paragraph (4) is submitted, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate an audit to evaluate that report and determine whether—

(i) the Administrator, in conducting the pilot program under paragraph (1), has utilized the relevant data generated by the network described in subsection (a) in the manner most beneficial to the programs and initiatives described in paragraph (2)(B);

(ii) the acquisition agreements entered into under paragraph (2)(A) with State mesonet programs fully comply with the requirements of that paragraph; and

(iii) the heads of other agencies, including the Secretary, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Commissioner of Reclamation, are utilizing the data generated by the network to better

inform and improve the missions of those agencies.

(B) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after initiating the audit required by subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the findings of the audit.

(6) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 512. GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

(a) RENAMING THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—The Act of May 13, 1954 (33 U.S.C. 981 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1 (33 U.S.C. 981), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation"; and

(2) in section 2(b) (33 U.S.C. 982(b)), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in any law, regulation, document, record, Executive order, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE 5.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(2) TITLE 18.—Section 2282B of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(3) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section 9505(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9505(a)(2)) is amended by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(4) TITLE 31.—Section 9101(3)(K) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(5) WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986.—The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 206 (33 U.S.C. 2234), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(B) in section 210(a)(1) (33 U.S.C. 2238(a)(1)), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(C) in section 214(2)(B) (33 U.S.C. 2241(2)(B)), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great

Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation"; and

(D) in section 1132(b) (33 U.S.C. 2309(b)), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" each place it appears.

(6) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 2109, by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(B) in section 8103(g), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(C) in section 8503(c), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(D) in section 5512(a)(3), by striking "St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation";

(E) in section 55331(3), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation"; and

(F) in section 70032, by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" each place it appears.

(7) TITLE 49.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 110—

(I) in the heading, by striking "**Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation**" and inserting "**Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation**"; and

(II) in subsection (a), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation"; and

(ii) in section 6314(c)(2)(G), by striking "Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation" and inserting "Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation".

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of subtitle I of title 49, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to section 110 to read as follows:

"110. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation."

**SEC. 513. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, including extraneous material on S. 1811, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, legislation very similar to this passed the House of Representatives unanimously earlier this year. This bill will continue the bipartisan tradition restarted by Chairman Shuster in 2014 of doing a Water Resources Development Act every 2 years. It is critical.

I am thankful to Ranking Member GRAVES, Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, and Subcommittee Ranking Member BRUCE WESTERMAN for their hard work in developing the House version and helping us negotiate with the Senate. I also thank our Senate colleagues, Committee on Environment and Public Works Chairman JOHN BARRASSO, who has pushed very hard for this bill, and Ranking Member TOM CARPER, for their collaboration.

Madam Speaker, this builds on the success of H.R. 7575, which, as I said, passed the House of Representatives earlier this year unanimously. It authorizes construction of 46 reports of the Chief of the Corps of Engineers. It is a record number of Chief's Reports, almost matching the number authorized in 2016 and 2018.

Now, that would only be made possible by the full utilization of the harbor maintenance trust fund. For decades, since Ronald Reagan was President, we have been assessing a tiny ad valorem tax on the value of goods and containers flowing through the ports coming into the United States of America.

Despite the pressing need to dredge our harbors, to authorize steps to repair jetties before they fail totally and become much more expensive to replace, for many years Congress refused to spend that full amount of money. There is now around \$10 billion collected in taxes from the American people for a specific purpose for which it has not been spent.

I started working on this with Bud Shuster—not Bill—Bud Shuster, his dad, back in 1996 to access the full amount of the harbor maintenance trust fund. It got out of that committee twice under Chairman Shuster. He was quite amazed it came out unanimously, including Freedom Caucus members and others, but Paul Ryan saw fit to strip it from the bill because he didn't think that we should maintain our harbors and our ports as a maritime Nation. I guess being inland, he didn't think that was so important.

We now have finally gotten to that point where we are going to access the funds. There is one tiny remaining problem—since the Senate seems to be totally incapable of passing any individual pieces of legislation and doing nothing individually except judges—we are seeking to attach this to the Omni-

bus, Continuing Resolution, budget deal, whatever the heck you want to call it.

Now, the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate has raised concerns. Even though this does not count officially against allocations on an annual basis, they are worried that somehow someone might look at them and say, Well you have got all this other money, so we are going to cut back on your regular amount of money. That is not going to happen. This need is great.

This is a huge bipartisan success with agreement by harbors all around the country, large and small, emerging, developed, energy ports. It is critical to the United States of America as a maritime Nation that we get this done and we begin to do the work on a daily basis.

Of our 58 largest harbors, 35 percent are at their authorized depths. That means ships go around, that means ships have to pass too close to one another in order to navigate restricted channels. It means jetties that are beginning to fail don't get fixed, and every year that they fail they become much, much more expensive to repair until the point of total failure, at which point it becomes incredibly expensive.

Madam Speaker, should we access the harbor maintenance trust fund over the next 5 years at \$2 billion a year, plus the expected income, we could bring all of our ports up to a state of good repair in 5 years. What the Senate staff is insisting on would stretch that out for 20 years—and actually, would stretch it out longer, because if you start doing things 18 years from now, they would have deteriorated even more and become more expensive. So they would, essentially, indefinitely put off bringing our harbors to a state of good repair because of unfounded concern.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that common sense will prevail, if there is any such thing on the other side of Capitol Hill.

I want to go back to thanking members of our committee and the staff who did great work on this bill. It is an excellent bill.

It also deals with inland waterways on a cost-share basis. It deals with building in resilience to deal with climate change—even if you don't believe in it—and will use natural systems as much as possible for these needs.

Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, who did not travel here today, was dogged in her support for the maintenance needs and advocacy for her large harbors. And ultimately, we came to an agreement, as I said, between all sizes of harbors around the country.

Madam Speaker, I also thank my ranking member, SAM GRAVES. He couldn't have been a better partner in helping us deal with the other side of Capitol Hill, and Mr. WESTERMAN for his steadfast support and importance to the final bill. Today's success would not have been possible without their great work.

There are a number of members of the committee who were particularly crucial: DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL, ABBY FINKENAUER, HARLEY ROUDA, CONOR LAMB, ANGIE CRAIG, CHRIS PAPPAS, ANTONIO DELGADO, LIZZIE FLETCHER, GREG STANTON, and SHARICE DAVIDS, all members of the committee who contributed significantly to this.

And also, we did lose the language to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which hasn't been reauthorized since 1987. I kind of thought it was time but, apparently, that is right now not on the radar of some people.

Madam Speaker, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is legislation that is essential to everyday American life-supporting jobs and our economy, protecting American lives and property, and restoring and protecting our vital natural resources. The Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020) modernizes and invests in our water resources infrastructure by: (1) authorizing critical, locally driven U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects and studies; (2) expediting the delivery of future projects; (3) increasing water storage and supply; (4) preventing, managing, and eradicating invasive species that reduce and degrade our water resources infrastructure and the environment; (5) building resiliency to increasing storm and flooding risks; (6) increasing community and Tribal involvement and engagement; and (7) addressing communities with affordability concerns. WRDA 2020 strengthens our Nation's security and economic competitiveness by deepening our ports and harbors, maintaining our inland waterways, and providing protection from dangerous flooding, while remaining committed to economically and environmentally responsible development.

In WRDA bills, Congress authorizes studies and projects encompassing the key missions of the Corps, including supporting coastal and inland waterways infrastructure, effective and targeted flood protection, environmental restoration, storm damage prevention, and proactive water supply initiatives. Each of the 46 completed feasibility study reports of the Chief of Engineers (Chiefs Reports) authorized by WRDA 2020 were locally driven and cost-shared, rigorously studied, and determined by the Corps to be economically justified, technically sound, and environmentally acceptable.

Since 2014, Congress has resumed the tradition of biennial consideration of WRDAs, and WRDA 2020 continues to deliver new authorities on a predictable authorization cycle to meet the water resource needs of local communities and to provide appropriate oversight of, and policy direction to, the Administration and the Corps. The transformative nature of the last three WRDA bills has provided the Corps and the non-Federal interests with new opportunities to advance projects more quickly and with greater effectiveness. WRDA 2020 builds on these changes by ensuring that future water resources development projects are developed in a resilient and more sustainable manner, by targeting increased Federal assistance to rural and economically-disadvantaged communities and Tribes that have seen challenges in implementing critical water resources infrastructure, and by modernizing the process for project development to ensure that all project benefits, including economical, regional, environmental, and other societal ben-

efits, are considered in the formulation of future projects.

Title 1 of WRDA 2020 ensures that the Corps operates and executes projects to meet our Nation's ever evolving 21st century needs. This title supports our transportation infrastructure and ensures the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce by reinstating the Federal commitment to our ports, harbors, and inland waterways. It builds on the CARES Act (Pub. L. 116-136) by unlocking funds that have already been collected from shippers for the purpose of harbor deepening and maintenance, and that have remained unspent, in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) while there are unmet operation and maintenance needs at ports and harbors. In addition, this title establishes a new authorization framework for the allocation of harbor maintenance funds to ensure equitable expenditures to meet the ongoing needs of the Nation's largest ports, Commercial Strategic Seaports, Great Lakes Harbors, and emerging harbors. Title 1 also addresses critical needs to modernize our Federal inland waterway system by authorizing additional funds from the General Fund of the Treasury towards the construction of projects on the Inland Waterway System, which handles approximately half of all inland waterway freight and one-twelfth of all national freight.

Further, Title 1 of WRDA 2020 ensures that future water resources development projects are designed and built with greater resiliency to address the needs of the next century. For example, this title directs the Corps to consider nature-based and natural features while developing projects, and advocates for innovation that ensures the resiliency and longevity of Corps construction. Similarly, this title recognizes the needs of communities that are currently facing repeat flooding events by providing critical assistance for the expedited consideration of permanent measures to reduce local flooding risks.

Moreover, Title 1 makes policy reforms to promote stronger local-level partnerships, decisionmaking, and effective, transparent project development and implementation that will overall improve water infrastructure development. Other provisions within this title ensure the protection of all communities through wider consideration of project benefits and greater flexibility and support for populations with affordability concerns. Title 1 also helps communities respond faster to natural disasters, improves the safety of our dams and levees, addresses necessary updates to aging infrastructure, and supports critical work against invasive species and harmful algal blooms. Lastly, this title recognizes the increasing role the Corps plays in addressing the water supply and water conservation needs of local and rural communities.

Title 2 of WRDA 2020 ensures continuity in addressing our water resources development needs. It authorizes feasibility studies for the development of future projects, while ensuring that studies currently underway are completed expeditiously. Title 2 also makes necessary adjustments to existing studies or projects to ensure they are forward-looking and encompass as many potential benefits to the localities as practicable. In addition, this title authorizes the analysis of regional or watershed-based systems which facilitates cohesive projects and greater end results for the systems without inadvertently segmenting out

populations or sub-systems. Further, this title directs the Corps to examine and report back on various Corps internal processes and assets to identify additional opportunities for Corps expertise and improvement in work efficiency.

Title 3 addresses ongoing Corps operations and opportunities to ensure efficient project delivery as well as remove outdated or duplicative Corps authorizations. Continuing in the tradition of the last three WRDAs, WRDA 2020 directs the Corps to identify approximately \$10 billion in antiquated construction authorizations that can be deauthorized, which is roughly equivalent to the cost of the new Chiefs Reports authorized by this legislation.

In addition, the revisions and updates to projects in Title 3, on advisement from the Corps, will keep those projects on track for delivery and maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of these Federal investments. This title also makes modifications to existing programs within the Corps to include a wider range of eligible regions for those programs and provide them with sufficient authorization levels to achieve their central purposes.

Further, Title 3 deauthorizes or transfers, in part or in whole, certain projects which are no longer within the mission of the Corps or are otherwise better suited as returned to the localities. These actions maintain Corps dependability and its relationships with non-Federal sponsors and stakeholders, while alleviating superfluous lands or projects that should be returned to states and localities and removed from Corps responsibilities.

Title 4 of WRDA 2020 affirms the Federal commitment to delivering water resources projects and the continued improvement of American water infrastructure. Again, this title authorizes 46 Corps projects to move to construction and makes changes to projects currently underway to guarantee their accuracy and long-term value. Projects authorized under WRDA 2020 will sustain jobs and our economic competitiveness by maintaining the flow of goods through our navigational channels and protecting American lives, land, and assets from flood or storm waters. The projects will restore and enhance our natural resources, ecosystems and environment, and prepare communities for increasingly wet or dry conditions. These essential projects will positively impact populations in all regions of the country and build smarter, more resilient infrastructure for the benefit of generations to come.

Title 5 of this bill makes several changes to Corps and other Federal agency authorities related to the control of invasive species or for other purposes. Invasive species have a devastating impact on our Nation's water infrastructure, as well as on our water supply. Increasingly, the Corps is required to partner with other Federal agencies to control the spread of invasive species, both on land and in the aquatic environment. The changes made by this title include the creation of new pilot programs to address invasive species such as Asian Carp, elodea, and quagga mussels, as well as noxious weeds. This title also retains the traditional roles of the Corps and other Federal agencies in controlling the spread or managing and reducing existing invasive species.

The managers of the U.S. House of Representative and the U.S. Senate for WRDA

2020 (“the Managers”) also highlight the following sections of this legislation and other matters related to the Corps:

Section 109 addresses the critical need to modernize our Federal Inland Waterway System. This section authorizes additional funds from the General Fund of the Treasury towards the construction of authorized inland waterways projects. The Managers have authorized this change to the current 50–50 cost share for inland projects to resolve the backlog in these critical projects, and intend that any inland project that received construction assistance prior to fiscal year 2030 utilize the new 75–25 cost share authorized by this section through completion of the project. The Managers also expect that this additional support will be prioritized for those projects identified by inland users as most essential in the 20-year capital development plan required under section 302(d) of WRDA 1986, including the Upper Ohio navigation system, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program for the Upper Mississippi River, and the Three Rivers project in Southeast Arkansas. It is the intention of the Managers that current prioritization plans be followed by the Corps in its funding of inland waterway projects.

Section 112 directs the Corps to ensure meaningful participation and consultation by economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes in the development of future water resources projects. During formulation of WRDA 2020, the Managers heard concerns from economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes of a lack of transparency and meaningful communication with these communities. Managers expect that continuous commitment to, and review of, Corps policies surrounding community engagement and tribal consultation will minimize adverse impacts to these populations, including detrimental impacts to their health, property, and livelihoods. It is the Managers’ intention that the Corps complete reviews and make adjustments, if warranted, to procedures expeditiously to ameliorate concerns and avoid conflict with existing and future water resources projects.

Section 125 renews the Congressional commitment to beneficial use of dredged material. While carrying out the beneficial use of dredged material pilot program pursuant to section 1122 of WRDA 2016, the Corps is directed to carry out at least one project utilizing thin layer placement of dredged fine and coarse grain sediment. This demonstration program is also authorized to be expanded to apply to recovering lost storage capacity in reservoirs due to sediment accumulation, if the project meets the other criteria within the program. The Corps is directed to carry out at least one project to recover lost storage capacity under the program as well. With this section, Managers expect the Corps to select projects that encompass a wide range of regional areas, economic status, and utilization methods.

Additionally, this section further encourages the Corps to coordinate planning for the deployment of Federal and non-Federal dredges. In sequencing dredging work to benefit multiple mission sets and providing consistent navigational certainty, especially in areas of high maritime traffic in our Nation’s harbors and waterways, the Managers believe proper implementation of this program will benefit the American economy and restoration efforts

alike. The Managers intend this authority to be used in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Regional Dredge Demonstration Program created in P.L. 116–94, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Section 161 makes changes to the study process pursuant to section 203 of WRDA 1986. As required by this section, this new policy does not apply to any project being authorized by this Act. Further these changes do not apply to any feasibility study submitted to the Corps during the one-year period prior to the date of enactment of this section, such as the Raymondville Drain Project, Lower Rio Grande Basin, Texas.

Subsection 201(b) states that the Corps is to consider any study carried out by the Corps for Port Arthur and Orange County, Texas, flood control project, to be a continuation of the study authorized under Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas. While subsection (a) explicitly authorizes a study for Port Arthur and Orange County, Texas, the Managers intend that nothing in subsection 201(b) will slow down the construction of the project for Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas.

Section 213 directs the Corps to conduct a comprehensive study of the Lower Mississippi River. The Managers note that the Mississippi River has been at flood stage at record length and frequency in recent years. The Managers intend this study to provide reconsideration of the operations of existing assets by operating structures throughout the Lower Mississippi River holistically and, potentially, for multiple purposes per asset, as well as identifying new projects and utilizing existing Federal and non-Federal assets, such as river reintroduction projects, new or existing reservoirs, water supply projects, or other measures. In completing the study, the Managers intend for the Corps to collaborate with all levels of government, as well as with non-governmental entities to improve the management of one of the largest watersheds in the world.

Section 216 includes studies for the Lower and Upper Missouri River. With a General Investigations study of the Lower Missouri River Basin already underway, the Managers intend this section to build off this existing authority and to expeditiously review both a comprehensive plan and site-specific solutions to combat flooding in communities across the Lower Missouri River Basin. While this Act specifically and preemptively waives 3x3x3 requirements, the Managers strongly encourage the Corps to complete its studies as expeditiously as possible.

Section 222 requires the Corps to issue an annual report that identifies all authorized studies or projects meeting certain criteria, including local support and the Corps’ capability for executing the work. The Managers expect this annual report will provide greater transparency in the Administration’s development of both its annual budget and its project selection process.

In completing this report, the Corps must describe specific benefits for each authorized study and authorized water resources development project included in the annual report. This section also requires the Secretary to include an appendix in the annual report that lists any submitted proposals that were not included in the annual report and a description of why the Corps determined that those proposals did not meet the criteria for inclusion. The Corps shall also make the annual report

to Congress publicly available on the internet and is directed to submit the report to Congress along with its annual report pursuant to section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, P.L. 113–121 (WRRDA 2014).

The Managers intend for the Corps to expeditiously develop implementation guidance for the provisions contained in WRDA 2020, as well as provisions from prior WRDAs that have yet to be developed. Section 223 of WRDA 2020 directs the Corps to expeditiously complete these actions, and consistent with section 1105 of WRDA 2018, to involve stakeholders in the development of guidance materials. In addition, the Managers direct the Secretary to directly engage and consult with, and provide briefings for, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Environment on Public Works on these actions.

Section 229 amends section 1104(b) of WRDA 2018 to require that the Corps provide the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an annual written update on the Corps’ implementation of non-Federal outreach requirements associated with development of section 7001 annual reports. This section also requires that the Corps issue guidance for the uniform implementation of the 7001 process by Corps districts and ensure annual compliance with that guidance. The Managers continue to be concerned with the agency’s ability to consistently implement these policies nationwide.

Section 310 clarifies that any Federal funds used to carry out construction of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) are considered as initiating construction of the project such that future funds will not require a new start designation. With initial construction of the MKARNS completed 50 years ago, modernization of the entire channel was authorized by Congress in 2003 and funds were subsequently provided in 2004. Since that time, the 12-foot deepening project has stalled, but this section will allow construction of the project to resume without the requirement to obtain a New Start, a requirement not contemplated when the deepening project was authorized and funded. This section will ensure the project is formally considered as a project resumption for budgetary and appropriations purposes.

Section 348 allows a local government entity, such as a city, with existing water supply storage in a Federal or non-Federal hydro-power lake within the Arkansas Basin, to access that water supply at a cost of not more than 110 percent of initial principal cost for the acre-feet sought for a new covered contract for that lake. This section makes clear that the Managers do not expect the Corps to undertake any formal reallocation process. Rather, the Managers expect that the Corps will work only with a local government entity that currently holds the rights to access water supply storage.

Section 351 allows the Corps, at the request of a non-Federal interest, to renegotiate the terms and conditions of deferred payment agreements under Section 103(k) of WRDA 1986 and to accept, without interest, the prepayment of non-Federal contributions. The Managers anticipate that the non-Federal sponsors of the West Bank and Vicinity, Lake

Pontchartrain and Vicinity, and Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Projects are expected to seek relief under this section in order to continue large-scale investments to support resiliency in both their infrastructure and regional ecosystems.

Section 401 authorizes 46 Chief's Reports, including a project for navigation improvements for the Port of Nome in Nome, Alaska. Nome will be America's first Arctic deep draft port, enhancing our strategic and economic competitiveness in the Arctic region. The Managers note the complementary and important role that modest improvements at Port Clarence/Point Spencer can play relative to the project at Nome, Alaska, and for safe Arctic transportation generally, and therefore, the Managers encourage the Corps of Engineers to expedite its consideration of the use of Section 107 Continuing Authorities Program funding to help install and make operational the two 30-ton and one 60-ton industrial grade buoy systems at Port Clarence to serve maritime safety needs for the Bering Strait as well as the greater Arctic region. The Managers also encourage the potential use of unobligated prior-year funds to facilitate the implementation of the mooring buoy project as soon as possible and note that the Corps was instrumental in completing a similar project for the placement and use of commercial-grade mooring buoys in the Columbia River.

Various sections under Title 5 of WRDA 2020 protect American assets and resources by working to prevent the spread and promote the eradication of certain invasive species. The Managers intend that work conducted as a result of this Title remain within the jurisdiction of the involved agencies and encourage a collaborative approach to solutions that allows each agency to utilize its expertise. Specifically, under section 508, the Managers intend that, for those authorities which address murder hornets as an invasive species, the Department of the Interior shall work in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture.

The Managers believe lessees of recreational and other facilities at water resource development projects should have more predictability and stability with regard to their respective lease agreements with the Corps. The Managers are, in conjunction with enactment of WRDA 2020, requesting the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to analyze Corps of Engineers policies related to the length of commercial concessionaire contracts. In the interim, the Managers believe that the Corps should consider the use of concessionaire lease agreements for a period of not less than 25 years and not more than 50 years, unless otherwise agreed to by the lessee. This effective tool will provide greater predictability and stability in the use of Corps lands by the lessee.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, December 4, 2020.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DEFAZIO: In recognition of the goal of expediting consideration of S. 1811, "A bill to make technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and for other purposes" the Committee on Natural Resources agrees to waive formal

consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee on Natural Resources takes this action with the mutual understanding that, in doing so, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Washington, DC, December 4, 2020.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,  
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR GRIJALVA: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 1811, A bill to make technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and for other purposes. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Natural Resources should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on Natural Resources on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,  
Chair.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, some of what I say today is going to be a little redundant, but I think it does bear repeating.

I do stand here in strong support of the amended version of S. 1811, which is the Water Resources Development Act 2020 or WRDA. The bill represents a bipartisan, bicameral compromise. It renews our commitment to regularly consider water resources infrastructure legislation.

And I remind my House colleagues and reiterate what the chairman said, we unanimously passed a bipartisan WRDA bill out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and we unanimously passed it on the floor of the House in July. And now, 5 months later, we hope to do the very same thing after successfully negotiating with the Senate.

Madam Speaker, WRDA 2020 authorizes—and, again, as has been pointed out—60 critical water resource projects. This is the most authorizations in recent history. These projects are going to strengthen our global competitiveness, they are going to grow the economy, they are going to provide flood protection for our communities, they are going to safeguard the environment, and create jobs.

Additionally, WRDA is fiscally responsible and deauthorizes old projects to fully offset new authorizations. It advances inland waterway improvements by adjusting the Inland Waterways Trust Fund cost-share; it includes important considerations and set-asides for rural communities; and it provides relief to communities, such as those in my home State of Missouri that have experienced repetitive losses as a result of flood events.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman DEFAZIO, Chair NAPOLITANO, Ranking Member WESTERMAN, and committee members and staff on both sides for their efforts in this very important piece of legislation.

On the Republican staff, I particularly want to thank the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment staff: Ian Bennitt, Jon Pawlow, and Victor Sarmiento. These folks have worked over weekends, they have worked over the recent holidays to help ensure that our priorities were intact, and we could move this bill prior to the end of Congress—at least this year's Congress.

I thank my general counsel, Corey Cooke, Tara Hupman, Tyler Micheletti, Justin Harclerode, Abby Camp, Nick Christensen, Jack Ruddy, and my full committee staff director, Paul Sass, for their hard work on this and getting it done.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, S. 1811, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the organizations supporting S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING S. 1811,  
THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT  
OF 2020

American Association of Port Authorities, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Great Lakes Port Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Waterways Operators, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of State Floodplain Managers, California Association of Port Authorities, Coastal States Organization, Everglades Foundation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, Growmark, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, Illinois Soybean Growers, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Interstate Council on Water Policy, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, National Association of Counties, National

Conference of State Legislatures, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, National Grain and Feed Association, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Parks Conservation Association, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, National Water Resources Association, National Water Supply Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Northwest Seaport Alliance, Oregon Public Ports Association, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Redwood City, Portland Cement Association, The Fertilizer Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Transportation Trades, Dept., AFL-CIO, United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, United Steelworkers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Waterways Council, Inc.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the chair of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair DEFAZIO.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Water Resources Development Act.

There is no question that Chairman DEFAZIO and Chairwoman NAPOLITANO have worked tirelessly over the last year—and probably longer—to get this bill to the finish line. This bill delivers for our Nation's crumbling water infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, S. 1811 enjoys broad bipartisan support because it pays attention to the unique and particular needs of the different regions of our diverse Nation. The package includes provisions to protect 90 percent of North America's surface fresh water on our Great Lakes. This includes a specific authorization of the invasive species control system at Brandon Road Lock and Dam. The project serves a unique national role, and once completed, will serve as a bulwark for preventing Asian carp and other invasive species from threatening the fragile ecosystem of our Great Lakes and its \$7 billion fishery.

Madam Speaker, today's authorization marks an important milestone for protecting the Great Lakes recreational fishing industry. Our region has advocated to include this authorization for nearly a decade. And since 2010, when Congress authorized the Great Lakes Interbasin Study, our delegation searched for a long-term and basin-wide solution to the predatory Asian carp.

I commend the committee for embedding resiliency into the Corps planning processes and for investing to rebuild and advance the Nation's water infrastructure for the 21st century.

Finally, the bill adds the words "Great Lakes" to the name of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to shine a light on the Seaway's unique role in unleashing the economic potential of the region and the Nation.

President Dwight David Eisenhower understood that this seaway is the shortest distance to Europe, and we must remember that today.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan bill.

□ 1415

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member from Missouri for his leadership on continuing the biennial consideration for the Water Resources Development Act.

Today, I rise in strong support of S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. WRDA 2020 will strengthen our Nation's ability to withstand severe weather and flood events, authorize the construction of key water infrastructure projects throughout the Nation, create jobs here at home, and directly contribute to our economic growth and competitiveness.

All 60 project authorizations contained in WRDA 2020 were proposed by non-Federal sponsors and underwent a rigorous planning process before congressional review.

This WRDA bill focuses on building more resilient infrastructure, increasing rural flood protection, addressing the maintenance backlog at our Nation's ports and harbors, and prioritizing our Nation's inland waterways.

The House passed WRDA by voice vote nearly 5 months ago, continuing the strong bipartisan tradition that WRDA enjoys.

After negotiations with the Senate, I am glad to support this compromise bill, which contains nearly all of our Chamber's priorities.

S. 1811 is fiscally responsible, with new project authorizations fully offset by deauthorizations of projects that are outdated or no longer viable.

Again, I want to stress that this legislation represents the continuing commitment to regular order for consideration of water resources projects. Regularly overseeing the improvement of our Nation's infrastructure is one of the most important responsibilities of Congress.

This is a good, commonsense, and bipartisan bill. I want to recognize the great work of our subcommittee staff, Ian, John, and Victor. I also want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Chairman NAPOLITANO for their partnership in its creation.

I urge all Members to support S. 1811.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the committee leaders for successfully reaching an agreement with the Senate on a

final Water Resources Development Act for 2020. This is a wonderful bill.

We have \$10 billion in new water infrastructure authorizations in this bill. It authorizes all of the pending Chief's reports. That includes two very important flood risk management projects in my district, which has been severely harmed by persistent flooding in recent years, as evidenced by the damage from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Army Corps that it may fund the construction of these projects out of remaining funds provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and that construction of such projects in the Virgin Islands, as well as in Puerto Rico, with funds provided under that act shall be conducted at full Federal expense.

This bill also contains a long-sought reauthorization of projects for navigation in the harbors of St. Thomas and Christiansted, St. Croix. The reauthorization of these projects for navigation will provide the harbors access to Federal resources for maintenance dredging and improvements to navigational systems, which will allow them to accommodate more and larger cruise ships over the long term, thereby better competing in a competitive Caribbean market. This is a very strong bill for the ports and harbors of the United States.

Lastly, this bill is probably the most progressive bill in a generation in terms of directing the Army Corps toward greater resiliency of future water resources development projects. It includes several provisions to modernize how the Corps develops future projects to make sure that it is better able to deal with issues of climate change and extreme wet weather events.

All in all, this is a significant investment in water resources infrastructure, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, if southeast Texas is going to continue as the global leader in creating reliable, affordable energy, we must modernize and improve our water infrastructure.

My district has four ports, including the main terminal of the Port of Houston, as well as the Houston Ship Channel, which is the busiest U.S. deep-draft waterway and the top exporting port in the Nation.

The provisions of 2020's WRDA to dredge, widen, and improve two-way traffic on the Houston Ship Channel is a product of hard work and collaboration over the last several years. This major accomplishment is the cornerstone for a more efficient, safe, and productive waterway for everyone.

However, I recognize that there is still more work to be done. It is not an exaggeration to say that by spending a million dollars today on hurricane and flood prevention infrastructure, we are saving a billion dollars in damages

down the road from another storm like Hurricane Harvey.

Thankfully, this bill contains numerous provisions for me and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that address these critical needs.

I wish to thank Ranking Member GRAVES as well as Chairman DEFAZIO, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Passing legislation like this one today will bring great benefit to southeast Texas and the entire country.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO for his leadership, his staff for working hard on this particular bill, and the ranking member and his staff for doing this.

I want to talk about one project that got added, and that is the Chacon Creek in Laredo, Texas. This is a project that we have been working on for many years with the city of Laredo. Now, this will provide the flood control, the work that we need to do, that starts off from Lake Casa Blanca all the way to the Rio Grande, miles of area that will provide not only for the environment but also for the quality of life for Laredo.

I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO so much for his great work, and we appreciate him in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

Our Nation's inlets, waterways, harbors, ports, and beaches are critical components of our national infrastructure, supporting countless local economies all across the country.

My district, which includes the southern portion of the North Carolina coast, relies on this biennial, bipartisan bill to maintain and improve our resource projects.

I would like to thank the Army Corps of Engineers for their work in support of the coastal storm damage reduction projects at Wrightsville Beach, as well as Carolina and Kure Beaches. Their team and mine work together constantly to ensure that the right decisions are made and executed.

I want to especially thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work and commitment to keep this legislation a good, bipartisan product of the committee. I particularly appreciate their willingness to work with me to address the needs of our coastal communities and the infrastructure so important to North Carolina's economy. I also want to thank the staff of the majority and minority for the many hours they have worked to make this day possible.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member GRAVES and Chairman DEFAZIO for their work and the committee staff for their work on this piece of legislation.

Water is the lifeblood of Florida, and there is not a more important piece of legislation to our State or to our community, my community specifically, because of the work that this bill does.

The Water Resources Development Act demands that the Army Corps of Engineers rewrite protocols that they have that allow them to poison my community, demands that they accelerate construction of the hugely important EAA Reservoir, demands that they move more water into Florida's Everglades where it is needed because they are dying because of lack of water.

This piece of legislation is vital to our State. I would absolutely argue there is nothing more important to our State, and I couldn't thank enough the chairman, the ranking member, and all the staff for all of their work on this very important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of WRDA 2020.

This bill increases the authorized cost of the Cano Martin Pena Ecosystem Restoration Project, representing the fully funded cost estimate at fiscal year 2020 levels. This project was authorized in 2007, prior to completing the feasibility phase and without updated costs. That is the reason it is so important for me. This change reflects the reality of costs and supports the project moving forward.

This bill also authorizes flood risk management projects for Rio Culebrinas, Rio Guayanilla, and Rio Grande de Manati in the municipalities of Aguada, Aguadilla, Guayanilla, and Ciales. Authorization is a firm step in the right direction as we work with stakeholders to restore these rivers and improve flood protection and the health and economic opportunities of island residents.

I would like to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES and their staff for working alongside my office to secure those provisions.

I also want to thank them for including the current mapping of all coasts that are experiencing rapid change. That means that Alaska, Hawaii, and many of the territories are going to be included in that provision.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, which prioritizes six key projects for New York's First Congressional District, a district almost completely surrounded by water.

On the east end of Long Island, we have a unique responsibility to safeguard our local waterways, from bolstering our local maritime infrastructure to managing future storm risks.

Working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the Army Corps team at its New York district office, this bill prioritizes local projects that are vital to my congressional district.

The Fire Island to Montauk Point project includes essential dredging and shoreline projects over 83 miles of coastline. Coastal storm risk management for Hashamomuck Cove in Southold is included, where, right now, local residents, businesses, and first responders are paralyzed even during a severe thunderstorm.

Additionally, this legislation authorizes a feasibility study for a project at Wading River Creek in Riverhead and expedites feasibility studies for projects at Reel Point Preserve and Shelter Island, Goldsmith Inlet in Southold, and Lake Montauk Harbor in Montauk.

Continuing to safeguard and invest in our maritime infrastructure will help preserve Long Island's way of life for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the chair and ranking member for their leadership in making this a reality.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS).

Mr. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Water Resources Development Act, which is critical to districts with significant shorelines, like mine.

I am especially pleased to see the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study included in this bill. High water levels on Lake Erie, and especially on Lake Ontario, are a major concern to communities in our region. Homeowners and business owners along Lake Ontario have suffered significant flooding and devastating property damage over the last few years. This study will inform those projects and policies that will mitigate high water levels and, hopefully, prevent future flooding of the kind suffered recently.

I would also like to thank our leaders in the House, Ranking Member SAM GRAVES and Chairman PETER DEFAZIO, for the bipartisan work they have done on this legislation. The bipartisan work in the committee on WRDA is always welcome and a strong example of the way business can be conducted here.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 1811.

□ 1430

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member. I didn't realize I was delaying his closing statement. I am interested in hearing it, too.

And then we are going to compare beards together after this; right? I am going to lose, I know, because he is the ranking member. That is what happens.

Madam Speaker, I do want to say a heartfelt thank-you and congratulations to Ranking Member GRAVES. This is a testament to his leadership for our side on this committee that we have come here to see such bipartisanship when it comes to the Water Resources Development Act.

Madam Speaker, I do also want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO for his hard work. This is something that we have seen over my time in Congress. My first term, I was blessed enough to be appointed to the conference committee that got us on track for getting WRDA together on a biennial process.

Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES, these are the guys who helped lead the teams to put this successful effort together.

And the chairman, I am sure, is probably surprised. I haven't been one to stand up and talk about bipartisanship in this Congress as much as I would have liked, but today is that day to celebrate, and he needs to be commended for his leadership, and I am excited that we see this success when it comes to WRDA.

This legislation is important to my district because I represent the Illinois and Mississippi waterways, the navigation projects that make sure that global commerce gets from my district out into the global marketplace.

Without proper policies governing the Corps of Engineers and projects that are so important to my district, we wouldn't be able to be as successful, economically. This is the reason why I am so excited that we see this bipartisan effort.

Madam Speaker, I urge a hearty "yes" vote and passage on this bill, and I thank every one of my colleagues who helped get us to this point. Madam Speaker, I certainly look forward to an overwhelming vote in the House today or later this week.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, let me note that WRDA 2020 will make America more competitive, grow jobs, foster a more robust economy, and, very importantly, it is going to protect our communities for years to come.

We passed a very similar bill by voice vote earlier this year, and this version reflects negotiations with the Senate that successfully maintained those

strong principles and priorities from the House bill.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to say, as well, that it has been a pleasure working with Chairman DEFAZIO and his staff in this process, and this is the way that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure usually works; and when it does work this way, we produce really good products.

This is a good piece of legislation, and, hopefully, we will see much more of that in the future. I know I am committed to it, and I think it makes a big difference.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as has been said and doesn't need to be repeated, this is a fully bipartisan bill, and it does make essential investments in water infrastructure that will impact virtually every State and territory of the United States of America.

As a great maritime nation, we can't afford not to make these investments; and hopefully it will be added, without change, to the omnibus year-end deal, or the Senate could perhaps take it up under unanimous consent since I don't think anyone would object to it over there. One way or another, hopefully, it will get done.

Madam Speaker, I would like to be more specific in thanking staff for this legislation. There was quite a lengthy negotiation.

The Senate never individually passed the bill. We had to negotiate the whole bill with the Senate, and Ryan Seiger led the team—he did a great job—Camille Touton, Navis Bermudez, and Alexa Williams; and on the Republican side, Ian Bennitt, Jon Pawlow, and Victor Sarmiento.

Then the unseen heroes behind all the good work here in the House are those who work in the Office of Legislative Counsel, and too often we overlook how critical they are to writing good legislation.

Sometimes I am amazed at the things that are introduced and that are gibberish, to put it mildly. Kakuti Lin and all her colleagues, thank you very much for your tremendous work on this, and it will be a great benefit to the Nation.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S 1811, the Water Resources Development Act. I would like to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and my fellow colleagues on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, along with my colleagues in the Senate, for their diligent work to produce this much needed water resources bill. Everyone in the U.S. is impacted by the need for clean water and I believe this bill takes a giant step forward to ensuring this becomes a reality for every American.

Within my district, The City of Dallas is appreciative to the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers (Corps) for their funding of the Dallas Flood way, Dallas Flood way Extension flood risk management projects and Lewisville Dam repairs and their continued efforts to complete these projects quickly. I look forward to continuing to hear good reports on the progress of these projects. I am pleased that the Corp is moving forward with these projects.

Please allow me to note that it is helpful for the Corps to accept input from non-federal sponsors in the development of WRDA guidance. The Corps, working with local non-federal sponsors instead of developing guidance independently, will result in more resilient projects with multiple benefits. The role of resiliency in the construction, operation and maintenance of projects carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) must continue to be a priority.

The Dallas area falls within the Southwestern Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. Flooding and flood control continue to be issues that are ever-present on the minds of residents along the Trinity River. I have held several meetings on flooding in the Dallas area to address this issue and hope to continue to work with the Corp to combat flooding in Dallas.

Other parts of North Texas have also benefited from projects included in previous versions of WRDA legislation. The projects addressing pump stations and levy heights in Dallas, along with bridge projects in Ft. Worth would not be where they are today without the Corps and this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is growing at a quite rapid pace and this updated legislation will help to provide adequate water and wastewater infrastructure to meet the demands, given the rapid pace of growth and development in our area. Furthermore, the bill will help in addressing maintenance needs, replacing aging infrastructure, and help in accounting for human behavior in all aspects of our water system—from sewer overflows, to promoting water conservation through drought tolerant outdoor landscaping.

Lastly, I want to thank the committee for working with me to include language in the bill regarding the embankment of Lake Waco, on which Lake Shore Drive is located, so that we may keep the public safe from danger. We were able to work with the Senate on language that was direct and clear. It is very encouraging to know that we can continue to work in a bipartisan way to work with the committee to ensure that Lakeshore Drive is not a safety hazard.

Madam Speaker, the projects I just mentioned are a tiny piece of the multitude of projects the Army Corps of Engineers works on to help address the water needs of the United States and its residents. Every American is impacted by this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. Today's vote is on the bipartisan, bicameral WRDA agreement by House and Senate Committee leaders. I want to particularly thank Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES, Subcommittee Ranking Member WESTERMAN and the Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their important work over the past 2 years on this bill.

The Water Resources Development Act is our legislative commitment to investing in

Corps projects that help to protect our communities from flooding events, restore our environment and ecosystems, and keep our nation's competitiveness by investing in our ports and harbors.

The projects considered in this legislation are truly from Sea to Shining Sea—from the Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) Project in Alaska, to the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration in California, the Matagorda Ship Channel project in Texas, to the New York and New Jersey Anchorages.

Through biennial enactment of WRDA legislation, the Congress has addressed local, regional, and national needs through authorization of new Corps projects, studies, and policies that benefit every corner of the nation. WRDA 2020 is no exception.

I would particularly like to recognize Chairman DEFAZIO for his continued efforts to unlock the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and his partnership in ensuring that all ports receive the tools they need in the future.

My region is home to the largest ports in the nation, the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. These ports handle over 40 percent of the exports and imports into the United States. Los Angeles and Long Beach have invested billions of dollars of their own money to upgrade their infrastructure for the benefit of the entire nation. But the success of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are only as strong as their partnership with the federal government.

As part of this legislation, donor ports like the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach will benefit from a greater share of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. Expanded in-water uses that are crucial to the navigation of the federal channel are now eligible. Seismic impacts will also be considered as part of the benefit-cost ratio for navigation projects.

I am also proud of the provisions in WRDA that look to study water supply as a primary purpose of the Corps. We in the West are in a continuous fight against drought, and we have remarkable Corps reservoirs that were built for flood control but can be used more effectively for local water supply. The Corps is adapting to these local needs in the West, and this bill will give the Corps more ability and focus on addressing long-term water reliability of arid communities.

The bill also includes important assistance to socio-economically disadvantaged urban and rural areas by requiring the Corps to work more directly with local leaders and residents on Corps projects and provide positive impacts to these communities. This will build long-term resiliency for economic development, environmental and health improvements, and clean and safe water resource projects.

Lastly, this bill includes language necessary for my district and wildfire prone regions of the country to improve efforts by the Corps to remove unauthorized, human-made flammable equipment and materials from Corps property. This year there was an illegal fire on Corps property in my district that led to a major wildfire evacuating hundreds of residents and coming close to damaging property and harming our community. The language in this bill, in addition to efforts to increase Corps funding, will go a long way to helping the Corps remove these fire hazards.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped this bill become a reality: Sub-

committee Vice Chair DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL, for her leadership on WRDA and especially all things Florida.

Thank you to the leadership at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ASA James, General Spellmon, Retired General Semonite, Al Lee and the Senior Executive Service team, and Corps Counsel. I would especially like to thank Corps Futures Team—David Wethington, Laura Powell, and Andrea Busch, for their time and partnership in answering our questions to the nearly 1,100 submissions we received for WRDA 2020.

I am very fortunate to have some of the best water and port leaders in the country in my district and Southern California who provided valuable input for this bill, including Col. Julie Balten, Col. Aaron Barta and David Van Dorpe of the Los Angeles District, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Public Works Director Mark Pestrella, Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Port Director Gene Seroka, Long Beach Port Director Mario Cordero, Metropolitan Water District Board Chair Gloria Grey, and San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Tony Zampiello.

Madam Speaker, I would particularly like to thank the Subcommittee Ranking Member BRUCE WESTERMAN for his friendship and collegiality through the hearings, meetings and roundtables which led to this bipartisan accomplishment. And most importantly, I would like to thank the incredible water subcommittee staff, including Alexa Williams, Camille Touton, Navis Bermudez, Ryan Seiger, Victor Sarmiento, Jon Pawlow, and Ian Bennitt.

I urge my colleagues to support WRDA 2020.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the final "Water Resources Development Act of 2020" (S. 1811). Working with other members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am very pleased to reach agreement with the Senate on a truly bipartisan bill and the fourth biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to be passed by Congress since 2014.

My Congressional district includes 200 miles of the Sacramento River and is adjacent to several major ports. WRDA 2020 includes key provisions for the California Delta and Central Valley to authorize and expedite construction of flood protection and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, address harmful algal blooms, and give local agencies greater flexibility in using federal Army Corps funds to better meet local needs. Under Chairman DEFAZIO's leadership, the bill finally fixes the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure that regional dredging and navigation projects are fully funded.

I secured Congressional authorization for the Delta Islands and Levees Ecosystem Restoration Project, Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Project, and Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank in WRDA 2020. These projects provide critical flood protection and make local communities across the Central Valley more resilient to climate change.

I also secured deauthorization of the Sacramento Riverbed Gradient Restoration Facility and Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, returning these former Army Corps projects to full local control.

WRDA 2020 also expedites completion of the Army Corps' feasibility studies needed for

the San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project, Lower Cache Creek Flood Risk Management Project, and Sutter Bypass and Sacramento River Basin Floodplain Management Project. I look forward to securing Congressional authorization for these projects once the Army Corps completes the requisite feasibility studies.

Working with Rep. DORIS O. MATSUI (CA-06), I secured inclusion of our "Yolo Bypass System Improvement Act" in WRDA 2020 to improve coordinated planning for all restoration projects and federal permitting in the Yolo Bypass.

Lastly, I am very pleased that the new Army Corps harmful algal bloom program established under WRDA 2020 includes the California Delta as a focus area. This will better protect the Delta's precious ecosystem from toxic algal blooms.

The House report for WRDA 2020 includes my amendment directing the Army Corps to report to Congress on implementation of the Small Business Act across all the Corps' missions. This strengthens Congressional oversight over the Corps' contracting process and ensures that the Small Business Act is implemented fully in an equitably distributed manner, as intended by Congress.

I want to extend a special appreciation to my colleague Rep. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO (CA-32), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, for her tireless work in this WRDA for the entire California delegation. WRDA 2020 ensures that Army Corps projects in California requiring earthquake-resistance and other seismic safety costs remain equally competitive for federal funding compared to projects in other states.

I urge all Members of Congress to support this bipartisan WRDA 2020, which is expected to be signed into law this year. This two-year authorization bill provides the federal support and certainty needed to keep Army Corps projects across California on time and on budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1811, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1014) to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1014

*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 “Route 66 Centennial Commission Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds that—

(1) Route 66 was the first all-weather highway in the United States connecting the Midwest to California, and has played a major role in the history of the United States;

(2) Route 66 has become a symbol of the heritage of travel and the legacy of seeking a better life shared by the people of the United States, and has been enshrined in the popular culture of the United States; and

(3) the year 2026 will be the centennial anniversary of Route 66, and a commission should be established to study and recommend in a report to Congress activities that are fitting and proper to celebrate that anniversary in a manner that appropriately honors the Mother Road of the United States.

**SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

There is established a commission to be known as the “Route 66 Centennial Commission” (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

**SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

The Commission shall—

(1) study activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government to determine whether the activities are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of Route 66, including activities such as—

(A) the issuance of commemorative coins, medals, certificates of recognition, and postage stamps;

(B) ceremonies and celebrations commemorating specific events; and

(C) the production, publication, and distribution of books, pamphlets, films, electronic publications, and other educational materials; and

(2) recommend to Congress—

(A) the activities that the Commission considers most fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion described in paragraph (1); and

(B) 1 or more entities in the Federal Government that the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out those activities.

**SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

(a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

(1) 3 members, each of whom shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Illinois.

(3) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Missouri.

(4) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Kansas.

(5) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Oklahoma.

(6) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Texas.

(7) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of New Mexico.

(8) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Arizona.

(9) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of California.

(10) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(11) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(12) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(13) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(b) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—An eligible individual referred to in subsection (a) is an individual with—

(1) a demonstrated dedication to educating others about the importance of historical figures and events; and

(2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of Route 66.

(c) **TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each initial appointment of a member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **TERMS.**—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) **BASIC PAY.**—Members shall serve on the Commission without pay.

(g) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) **QUORUM.**—7 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(i) **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**—The Commission shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among the members of the Commission.

(j) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

**SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The Director of the Commission shall—

(A) be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the Director may not exceed the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of that title.

(2) **STAFF.**—The staff of the Commission shall—

(A) be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, gov-

erning appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(c) **SOURCE OF COMPENSATION.**—In accordance with section 10—

(1) no Federal funds may be expended to compensate a Director or staff member of the Commission under this section; and

(2) any compensation paid to a Director or any staff of the Commission appointed under this section shall be derived solely from donated funds.

**SEC. 7. POWERS.**

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers to be appropriate to carry out this Act.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(c) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal departments and agencies.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out this Act.

(2) **DETAILEES.**—

(A) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency or department may detail to the Commission, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any employee of the agency or department.

(ii) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(iii) **NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.**—A Federal employee who is detailed to the Commission under this subparagraph may not receive any additional pay, allowances, benefits, or other compensation by reason of the detail of the employee to the Commission or any services performed by the employee for the Commission.

(B) **STATE EMPLOYEES.**—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from a State; and

(ii) reimburse the State for the services of the detailed personnel.

(e) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, grants, bequests, or devises of money, services, or property from any public or private source for the purpose of covering the costs incurred by the Commission in carrying out this Act.

**SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

(a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may submit to Congress such interim reports as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of the Commission are appointed, the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report containing—

(1) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission;

(2) the recommendations of the Commission; and

(3) any other information that the Commission considers to be appropriate.

**SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2026.

**SEC. 10. EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—All expenditures of the Commission, including any reimbursement required under this Act, shall be made solely from donated funds.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 1014.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1014. The bill establishes the Route 66 Centennial Commission, with the charge of developing and planning a celebration for 2026 for the 100th anniversary of America's "Mother Road."

Route 66 was established November 11, 1926. It was a 2,448-mile-long highway that originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California, and passed between numerous States in between.

This historic route has been traversed by Americans through the years for many reasons, from hundreds of thousands of migrants escaping the Dust Bowl in the 1930s to more recent road-trippers following in the footsteps of Jack Kerouac.

A precursor to the interstate system, Route 66, was created out of the need for greater connectivity after the rise in automobile ownership. Disparate segments of roads and paths were woven into a cohesive highway that offered unparalleled ease of mobility.

While Route 66 became largely obsolete after the completion of the interstate system, it holds a unique place in our Nation's surface transportation history. The story of Route 66 serves as an important reminder of why an interconnected transportation system is vital and why we must not devolve to a piecemeal approach to surface transportation, as some have advocated—the first surface transportation advisor to President Trump most notably among them—saying we should go back to the good old days when this was done by all the States individually, even if the roads didn't sometimes connect or meet national needs.

For years, I carried around a poster of the interstate. It was a turnpike at

the time between Kansas and Oklahoma. Kansas built their section.

It is an aerial photograph from Life magazine, and if you look down, you would say: Boy, that is really odd looking. There is this big ribbon of concrete, four lanes, two on each side, and then there are all these kinds of angular black lines.

Then you go: What is that?

Well, that is the Oklahoma State line, and that is Amos Schweitzer's farm field.

Until we had the Eisenhower plan and until we had a national highway program, until we had a user fee, the State of Oklahoma said: We can't afford to do our section, even though we said we would do it.

It was completed a number of years later with a Federal share from the Eisenhower plan.

This kind of connectivity is critical. I have had some environmentalists say: Why do you want to rebuild the highway system with climate change?

Well, we are going to rebuild it in a resilient way. We are going to build it with new materials and more climate friendly, and we are going to electrify it.

We cannot possibly move the amount of freight necessary in this country to feed the American people and serve myriad other needs with our rail system. It just could not meet that task.

We have to rebuild the 47,000 bridges that are in need of replacement or significant structural repair. We have to repair the sections of 40 percent of the national highway systems that are deteriorated to the point where you have to rebuild it, not just resurface it. And we have to invest in the \$100 billion backlog in our transit systems.

Hopefully, under President Biden, we will have no more fake Infrastructure Weeks, and we will move forward with an actual, real Infrastructure Week with investment and spending.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a reminder of the past and the need for interconnection to serve the American people, which we are going to need again in the future.

I support S. 1014 and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for allowing this bill to come to the floor today.

I also want to give a heartfelt thanks to my colleague from the great State of California, GRACE NAPOLITANO. GRACE and I cosponsored together H.R. 66, which is the House companion bill to this legislation.

I also want to thank, since we are taking up the Senate bill, the Senate version of this bill, I really want to thank my colleague from my home State of Illinois, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, for her work in making

sure that this bicameral, bipartisan compromise comes to the floor today.

I am proud to have Route 66 run through the middle of my district, and I do believe that it is important to celebrate its history.

In 1926, Route 66 became the Nation's first all-paved highway under the U.S. Highway System. As Chairman DEFAZIO stated earlier, it connects Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California.

Early on, the road was used by thousands of Americans seeking escape from the Dust Bowl, and it provided critical employment opportunities for road crews paving the road during the Great Depression.

During World War II, the highway transported troops, equipment, and supplies to military bases across our country and was used after the war by thousands of troops who were gladly returning home to see their families.

By the 1950s, Route 66 began to see a rise in tourism and really became the true symbol of American freedom and independence that we all know today.

In April of 2017, I went on an extended tour of Illinois' stretch of the highway with my colleague and good friend, Congressman DARIN LAHOOD, and also my good friend and former district director, who is now a State legislator, Representative Tim Butler, and other local leaders. We had the opportunity to see the impact that the "Mother Road" brings to our home State of Illinois.

□ 1445

It supports many jobs, key economic activity in small towns, and it helps generate the important local sales tax revenue to our communities that line Route 66.

If you want to come to that stretch of Illinois, travelers along Route 66 can see a giant pink elephant. That is right, Madam Speaker, a giant pink elephant right outside the Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston, Illinois, right at the southwestern part of the 13th District of Illinois.

They can go see a movie at the Wildey Theater in Edwardsville, Illinois, in my district that originally opened in 1909.

They can stop for an all-day breakfast at Jungle Jim's Cafe, a quintessential roadside diner in Springfield. They have great pancakes, too. Don't eat too many of them. The omelets are great. It is a wonderful place to stop.

These are just a few of the thousands of local businesses along Route 66 whose livelihood depends on the historic highway. You don't even have to be in a car to ride along Route 66. The Illinois Route 66 Trail is a system of off-road paths for bikes, hikers, or anyone else looking to see the Mother Road in a different way.

The centennial of Route 66 will be an international celebration, and the State of Illinois will be ready to welcome travelers from around the world who want to experience the history and magic of this scenic byway.

For this reason, one of the important aspects of this bill is its creation of a commission to recommend activities to honor the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in the year 2026.

Additionally, the bill directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with certain governors to develop a plan to preserve the first all-paved U.S. highway connecting the Midwest to the West Coast in California. It is important to retain the legacy of this great road.

Throughout its history, Route 66 has been more than just a way to get from point A to point B. It has evolved in a symbol of American independence and prosperity.

I am proud to help continue the legacy of Route 66. H.R. 66 passed the House last year by a voice vote, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 1014.

I don't believe that I have anybody else here to speak on this bill, unless I surprise any of my colleagues by yielding them time. So, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, although I do want to visit the Pink Elephant Antique Mall, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1014.

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.

#### ORRIN G. HATCH UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4902) to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4902

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

#### SECTION 1. ORRIN G. HATCH UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, shall be known and designated as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. 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 S. 4902.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4902, a bill introduced by Senator LEE to designate the United States Courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse.

Orrin Hatch was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh and worked as an attorney in Pittsburgh until he moved to Utah in 1969, where he continued to practice law.

In 1976, he was elected to the United States Senate for his first run for public office. Senator Hatch is the longest-serving Republican U.S. Senator in history and the longest-serving U.S. Senator from Utah.

Senator Hatch is one of the only Senators to have served as chairman of three Senate committees: Health, Education, Labor and Pensions from 1981 to 1987; the Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001 and from 2003 to 2005; and the Finance Committee from 2015 to 2019. In total, Senator Hatch spent 32 of his 42 years in the Senate as either chairman or ranking member of a major committee.

In 2015, Senator Hatch was sworn in as President pro tempore of the Senate, a position he held until his retirement in 2019.

Senator Hatch credits his family as the key to his success. He and his wife, Elaine, have been married for over 60 years. They are the proud parents of 6 children and 23 grandchildren.

I support this legislation honoring the accomplishments and service of Senator Hatch and I would ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

S. 4902 would designate the U.S. courthouse in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse.

Senator Hatch served the citizens of Utah and our Nation for many years. First elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976, Senator Hatch served in the other body for 42 years during seven different Presidential administrations.

Prior to his retirement, Senator Hatch served as President pro tempore and was third in line for Presidential succession from 2015 to 2019.

Senator Hatch has a longstanding record of bipartisanship, having co-

sponsored or sponsored more than 750 bills that became law.

His leadership as chairman of three major Senate committees helped pave the way for critical financial, judicial, and health legislation.

I think it is fitting to honor the dedication and service of Senator Hatch by naming this courthouse after him. I say that as a Federal prosecutor of 20 years.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4902, which is legislation renaming Utah's Federal courthouse in honor of Senator Orrin G. Hatch.

Madam Speaker, I met Senator Hatch many years ago and have worked with him since my time in the Utah State Senate and subsequently as the mayor of Salt Lake County. I have always admired the service he provided for his constituents and colleagues in the Senate alike.

Senator Hatch's accomplishments on behalf of Utah and our country are a remarkable reminder of the bipartisanship we need to return to.

Senator Hatch worked with his longtime friend, Senator Ted Kennedy, to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. He also worked across the aisle to pass the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which compensated Utahans who suffered radiation exposure because of their proximity to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site.

Madam Speaker, Senator Hatch has been an exemplary public figure. For over 40 years, Senator Hatch showed what it is like to work with folks from all walks of life and all ends of the political spectrum. He respected a difference of opinion. He welcomed a healthy debate, and he knew that at the end of the day we are all trying to make our State and our country a better place.

Senator Hatch cared deeply about the rule of law and the integrity of the courts. Putting his name on the Federal courthouse in Utah is a well-deserved and hard-earned honor marking his many contributions to the judiciary, to his State, and to our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

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

I rise in support of this bill to rename the new Federal courthouse in Utah after my good friend, Senator Orrin G. Hatch. He is my friend. He was, in many ways, my mentor. He has been a friend of my family.

At the risk of repeating some information that has already been said, I think it is worth just highlighting some of his really incredible and notable achievements.

In the first place, just serving his Nation for 42 years in the U.S. Senate; again, the longest-serving Republican Senator in all of U.S. history. He rose to the position of President pro tempore, serving under seven Presidents and nine Senate majority leaders.

I love this fact; it is remarkable: He has passed more legislation than any other Senator who is alive today, more than 750 bills, which I think reflects on not only his long career, but on his ability to work with others because he could not have done that by himself. He could not have done that just with his own party. He had to do that in a bicameral and a bipartisan fashion, and he certainly did, and he is known for that.

Again, the numerous leadership positions, chairman of three major committees, which have already been mentioned here.

I think it is fair, as well, and appropriate that we mention not only him, but his wife, Elaine. As good as Orrin is, Elaine is every bit as good and in some cases better. And their 6 children and 23 grandchildren, the result of 60 years of marriage.

Of final note, Senator Hatch was particularly active and impactful in the judiciary. I think that every sitting U.S. District Court Judge in Utah, including, by the way, my brother, owes, to some degree, their position because of the support of Senator Hatch. He had an unparalleled career. He had an unparalleled impact on the judiciary, and it is perfectly appropriate that we name the new courthouse in Salt Lake City after this distinguished gentleman, and I absolutely support and endorse this effort.

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

In closing, Senator Hatch was one of the longest-serving members of the U.S. Senate, often working on a bipartisan basis to get the work of the American people done.

This bill will honor and recognize his dedication and decades of service to this great Nation.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4902.

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.

#### ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 578) to amend title

II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 578

*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 “ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “(ii) in the case of an individual who has been medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, for each month beginning with the first month during all of which the individual is under a disability and in which the individual becomes entitled to such insurance benefits, or (iii)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to applications for disability insurance benefits filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

□ 1500

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

ALS is a devastating and cruel disease. There is no cure for ALS, and ALS always leads to a premature death. On average, people live only 2 to 5 years after getting a diagnosis of ALS.

Earlier this year, I lost my dear friend and former Chief of Staff, Elliot Ginsberg to ALS, and previously lost a near and dear friend, Danny Jones, who I went to grammar school with and played basketball with, who later led Central Connecticut in his collegiate years.

Every year, approximately 5,000 Americans are diagnosed with ALS.

Over time, people with ALS lose their ability to speak, to eat, to move, and even to breathe. They are unable to work due to their severe disabilities, and they lose their jobs and their employer-based health insurance. I have witnessed this happen to both them

and, as importantly, their family members, and to see the agony and the suffering and yet the dedication and love that they go through.

Recognizing the devastating nature of ALS, in 2000, Congress passed bipartisan legislation that waived the 24-month waiting period for Medicare for people with ALS.

Today, we consider the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will end the 5-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for people with ALS.

Madam Speaker, I want to give special thanks to Representative SETH MOULTON, who has been a champion on this issue, along with the 305 Members of the House of Representatives who have cosponsored Representative MOULTON’s bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019. Our actions today will provide people with ALS quicker access to the Social Security and Medicare benefits they have earned.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to commend my colleague on the House Ways and Means Committee, BILL PASCRELL, for his passionate leadership and untiring advocacy on behalf of those suffering with Huntington’s disease, a terrible disease which affects children as well as adults.

Today, we are passing this bill for many with ALS, but we also know there are many devastating diseases, such as Huntington’s and metastatic breast cancer, which also deserve the same benefits and to have bills in Congress that will provide just that.

We need a solution for everyone.

People with the kinds of severe disease and disabilities that qualify them for Social Security really need the benefits they have earned as soon as possible. I hope that in the next Congress we can try to help everyone, by doing what BERNIE SANDERS and LLOYD DOGGETT and others have proposed, to eliminate these waiting periods across the board.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019.

As my colleague, Mr. LARSON, has indicated, this legislation will provide immediate access to disability insurance benefits for individuals suffering from ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, by eliminating the 5-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits.

Madam Speaker, it is only fair that we remove this waiting period to ensure everyone with this disease will have immediate access to the benefits they have earned.

It is only fair, also, that we help great Americans like a family in our

district, the Palmesano family, Mike and Suzy, who are close, personal friends of mine, who I have gotten to know over the years when their son Mick was recently diagnosed with rapid progression ALS.

The Palmesano family has been strong advocates for this cause, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Their bravery in the face of adversity represents hundreds of families in our district and thousands of families across the country struggling with this terrible disease day in and day out.

The disability insurance waiting period was designed to make sure a condition wasn't temporary before benefits were paid, not to prevent great Americans, like Mick and his family and others, from receiving disability benefits.

The data, Madam Speaker, is clear. On average, ALS patients live 3 to 5 years. Once ALS starts, it almost always progresses, eventually taking away the ability to walk, dress, write, speak, swallow, and breathe.

Given the severity of ALS and that there is no current cure, people diagnosed with this disease know this is not a temporary condition. That is why ALS is one of two conditions that has an exemption to the 24-month waiting period for Medicare.

Again, that same logic should apply to waiving the waiting period for disability insurance.

This legislation is supported by the ALS Association, I AM ALS, Les Turner ALS Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Team Gleason, and the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus.

I look forward to voting for this legislation, because we must stand together and care for those struggling with ALS and also their families as they battle this debilitating disease.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this great piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the distinguished gentleman who has championed this bill.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), my friend, for yielding.

In 2014, Pete Frates told ESPN: "At the end of the day, I want to be the cliché game-changer. I want to be the guy who shifts everyone's thinking and shifts where the funds are going. Selfishly, I want to give myself a chance, but also give a lot of other people opportunities as well."

Today, we consider ourselves incredibly lucky because we got to know Pete Frates.

Pete, you accomplished this mission long ago, but today's vote is further proof that you will live forever. We are here because you were brave enough to stand up and show the world your strength. We are here because of your family, who continued the fight: Julie, Lucy, John, Nancy, Jennifer, and An-

drew, and the Frate-train. I am so proud of all of you.

We are here because of the hard work of the ALS Association, I AM ALS, and because thousands of ALS patients and their families and caregivers followed your lead.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pass the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, and let's keep fighting until we have a cure for this devastating disease.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our great whip, to express his thoughts on this important bill.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for leading on this important piece of legislation as well.

I rise in strong support, Madam Speaker, of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act.

We have worked closely on so many issues with the ALS community, and this is another great example of that. I know as I was talking with the majority leader last week during our colloquy, Mr. HOYER, we worked on getting this bill scheduled.

Madam Speaker, I thank the majority leader for bringing this bill to the floor, because at a time when you hear about Congress' disagreements—which, unfortunately, there are a number of areas where we do disagree—this is one area where we have come together; and not just today, on this issue regarding the timeline that you have to wait for ALS patients to be eligible for SSDI, a timeline that we will now eliminate, properly so, but we have been here before and Congress has come together on other areas.

The Steve Gleason Act is one of those great examples, where speech-generating devices were being denied to people with ALS. It was a ruling that had come out of Medicare that we had all disagreed with, but it took an act of Congress to fix that.

Congress did come together to do that, just as Congress is coming together today to right this wrong and to stand up for those ALS patients who just want to live life to the fullest.

Steve Gleason is one of those examples. He is a constituent of mine and has become a dear friend, and somebody who really does live life to the fullest and doesn't let a disability define him.

He actually has gone out and become a pioneer and inspired so many others to just go out and live their life and let's get government impediments out of the way.

That is what we are doing here today. We are coming together as Republicans and Democrats to stand up for those people with ALS who just want that opportunity to live their life to the fullest.

I want to reiterate that great motto that Steve Gleason lives by: No white flags. It means you never surrender; you just go out there every day and do the best you can.

Today, we are going to help thousands of people across this country do exactly that.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), a distinguished gentleman who has been a lifelong fighter on behalf of people with disabilities.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which ensures that individuals who are diagnosed with ALS are not forced to wait to receive the Social Security Disability benefits that they have earned and they so desperately need.

The onset of a disability can be a difficult, challenging, and often disorienting time. However, by eliminating the 5-month waiting period for ALS patients to receive disability benefits, we can help families facing this difficult diagnosis focus on their health and well-being instead of worrying about how to keep a roof over their head or put food on the table.

Madam Speaker, I applaud my good friend and colleague, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, for championing this bipartisan effort in the Senate. He has been a strong voice for the ALS community as co-chair of the Senate ALS Caucus, and I have been proud to work with him on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I also recognize our colleague here, Representative SETH MOULTON, for his leadership as well.

Madam Speaker, I also want to recognize one of my constituents, Christa Thompson, who has been a dedicated crusader for the ALS community. Christa knows the struggle all too well, as she has watched her husband, Olin, battle this devastating disease.

Christa, a proud mother of three boys, made it her mission to engage with me and my delegation colleagues early on, and it is in large part due to her efforts and the efforts of ALS advocates everywhere, including my good friend, J.R. Pagliarini, who has been such a champion of ALS back in Rhode Island, that we will be able to provide some important relief to families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Let's make a difference for these families and those diagnosed with ALS.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

□ 1515

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 578, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act.

ALS is a rare, fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease with an ability to strike anyone at any time throughout the world.

It has no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. Still, we actually have no cause or cure, and it is very sad, but we have to work on a cure. We will never give up, Madam Speaker.

While military veterans are 1½ to 2 times more likely to develop ALS than those who have not served, and 5 to 10 percent of cases are familial and due to a gene mutation, 90 percent are considered sporadic with no clear reason for development.

Rapidly progressing throughout the body, time is critical for ALS patients as many suffer total paralysis and death, typically within 2 to 5 years following diagnosis, although I do know some friends who have lived much longer than that. They continue to contribute to society and to their respective wonderful communities.

Again, during that time, many lose their ability to work and lose access to employer-based insurance. Despite contributing to Social Security during their working years, ALS patients must wait 5 months before they can receive access to the benefits they have earned. These disability benefits help pay for costly medical care, food, and housing.

ALS patients cannot afford to wait for the wheels of bureaucracy to turn. They need our immediate support in the face of this cruel disease. As the co-chair of the Rare Disease Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill for ALS patients.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU), a gracious and distinguished lady on the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which would help those diagnosed with ALS get their benefits quickly by making them eligible to receive Social Security Disability Insurance immediately instead of having to wait 5 months.

I have heard heart-wrenching stories from my constituents whose lives have been upended by this cruel and aggressive disease. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease over the course of which those with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement. This leads to paralysis and, ultimately, death.

Tragically, ALS has a fatality rate of 100 percent. Unfortunately, this disease is so aggressive and can take so long to diagnose that some patients lose their battle with ALS before the 5-month waiting period for SSDI benefits is over. This bill would ensure that those who have an ALS diagnosis are not denied their benefits when they need them most.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us today.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the dean of the New York delegation who has had a long history of support for causes such as this.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, let me thank my colleague from New York for yielding. Let me also commend Mr. LARSON and Mr. MOULTON for their leadership efforts on this, and, of course, Mr. BILIRAKIS.

It is really a great honor to be supporting this legislation. I have known, unfortunately, too many people who suffer from ALS.

It is 100 percent fatal. That is the reality of it.

All of us who meet advocates every year coming in to lobby us, or to urge us to support more research funding for ALS, we realize very quickly they may be there 1 year and 2 years, and then we never see them again because they have died. It is a brutal neurodegenerative neuromuscular disease, and this 5-month limit that was put on them before they can obtain disability benefits was so unfair.

During that 5 months, the disease can progress so rapidly. The medical costs go up. The psychological costs are there. By passing this legislation today, we are going to provide not just financial relief but also psychological and emotional care and relief for their families and friends.

In New York, we always refer to this as Lou Gehrig's disease after the famed Yankee slugger, and I am saying that as a Mets fan. Lou Gehrig is a hero in New York. Unfortunately, as great as his baseball record is, he is known most for the disease that ended both his career and his life.

Let me just say also, this will be my final appearance on the House floor speaking, the last time I speak on the House floor. I want to say what a great honor it has been to serve for these past 28 years with all of the Members. It has been a great privilege for me. One of the real privileges is being able to support legislation such as this, which is so needed and so necessary.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), who I say is the voice of God. When you hear him speak, I think you will agree with me.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a cosponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, I rise in strong support of this bill that removes the harmful 5-month waiting period for earned Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

For years, representatives from the greater Chicago chapter of The ALS Association have raised the financial

hardship caused by this waiting period. Disability insurance is an earned benefit. Federal law should ease suffering and promote the well-being of persons eligible for SSDI.

This bill will help alleviate the financial burden of persons and families struggling with ALS, making it a little easier as they battle the tremendous loss associated with this illness.

Enacting this bill is an important step forward to removing barriers to disability benefits. I look forward to advancing additional bills to eliminate obstacles to disability benefits, including advocating for the elimination of the waiting period for financial and Medicare assistance for all SSDI-eligible individuals.

Again, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, at this time, I have no other speakers seeking time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), considered the greatest hockey player in the Congress.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am sure not everyone on the other side would agree with that, or on this side either.

I rise today in strong support of this bill, and I want to thank Chairman NEAL and Members MOULTON and KING for a bill that will surely bring hope and dignity to ALS patients and caregivers.

The 5-month waiting period is simply unacceptable for a disease like ALS, and I am glad that Congress is finally righting this wrong.

Over the past 2 years, it has been an honor for me to partner with the ALS community. For too long, ALS has flown under the radar. It has gone underfunded, underresearched, and unnoticed. But that is rapidly changing, thanks to the efforts of patient advocates fighting for their own lives and the lives of those not yet diagnosed.

I would like to give a special shout-out to my friends and Chicagoans, Brian Wallach and Sandra Abrevaya, the husband and wife cofounders of I AM ALS, and to Dan Tate, Jr. They are tireless, selfless patient advocates. Without them, we simply wouldn't be here today.

I want to thank you all for bringing this bill to the floor. I am proud to be an original cosponsor and welcome its bipartisan support.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of Congressman MOULTON, who has led this effort in the House, and my Senator, Senator WHITEHOUSE, in the Senate, and all the cosponsors.

As we all know, ALS is a terribly debilitating disease. For those of us who have friends or family members who have been diagnosed with this, we know what a family endures when the diagnosis is made, and they are overwrought with how they are going to manage this very serious health challenge. Imagine, in addition to all of that, if people have to worry about whether or not they have access to care in those critical first months of this disease.

So, I applaud everyone who has cosponsored this bill. Patients and families will benefit enormously from this legislation. They will have one less thing to worry about when they are confronting this very serious diagnosis.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I have great gratitude for my distinguished colleague from New York (Mr. REED), and I thank SETH MOULTON for his outstanding work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 578, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, as we close this debate, I applaud my colleague from Connecticut who is a true, good friend, Mr. LARSON, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

I am just proud to stand in full support of this commonsense legislation that will make a difference, Madam Speaker, in the lives of so many Americans suffering from ALS. I know it will make a difference for Mick Palmesano. I know it will help alleviate and bring some comfort to the entire Palmesano family in our home district of New York.

But most importantly, I know we demonstrated to the folks in America that Congress can work, that Democrats and Republicans can come together on an important issue like this and pass important legislation that will improve the lives of Americans.

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed this legislation, Madam Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support of this fine legislation so we can get it to the President's desk for signature without delay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I join today in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act to ensure that individuals diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) receive the financial support they need and for which they have already qualified. I congratulate Congressman MOULTON and Senator WHITEHOUSE on their successful leadership for this important effort of which I have been a cosponsor.

For individuals who are determined to have a sufficiently severe disability to qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance, the security that Social Security is intended to provide can come with a cost—two years without health insurance. This waiting period—which should really be called a suffering period—must be eliminated. Two unjustified delays prolong the suffering. The first, a five-month delay to receive any disability payment even though the recipient has already qualified. The second, is a two-year delay to access Medicare coverage for which they already qualified.

This means that the millions of individuals with disabilities in this waiting period may not be able to access necessary medical treatments and medications. This only makes existing health complications worse and increases overall health care spending. Many die waiting their turn for health coverage. In 2018 alone, about 16,000 workers with disabilities died during the 5-month waiting period and about 56,000 workers with disabilities died waiting for Medicare coverage.

These waiting periods only serve to harm the health of individuals with disabilities and delay the support they need. In addition to this bill for individuals with ALS, other colleagues have offered legislation to end the waiting periods for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, Huntington's Disease, and other life-threatening illnesses. I support all of these efforts. We must provide a healthy foundation for all individuals with disabilities, who already are experiencing unique health challenges.

I hope that this ALS bill represents a step forward in the eventual approval of the bipartisan Stop the Wait bill, H.R. 4386, that I introduced to eliminate the onerous waiting periods for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare. This bill now has 50 House cosponsors, and Senator BOB CASEY has introduced companion legislation. Having recognized the suffering of these waiting periods for Americans with ALS, I urge Congress to consider the suffering of all those subject to waiting periods and pass long-overdue reforms to Stop the Wait. We must ensure individuals with disabilities have access to health care when they need it. Social Security cannot truly provide health care security, until all individuals with disabilities have guaranteed access to prompt Medicare coverage. Let's Stop the Wait for all of them.

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. This important bill eliminates the mandatory five-month waiting period for patients with ALS seeking to access the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits they earned.

The waiting period creates an undue financial burden when ALS patients are already facing enormous financial stress. But while we act today to alleviate the hardship created by this waiting period for ALS patients, Congress must extend similar relief to other beneficiaries who are equally deserving.

What sense does it make to have require SSDI beneficiaries to endure a five-month waiting period after they have been determined eligible for their earned SSDI benefits? This requirement creates an unnecessary delay for some of our nation's most vulnerable.

We must ensure that all individuals who qualify for SSDI can access the benefits for which they have already qualified without

undue delay. I urge my colleagues to not only support the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, but to end the waiting period for all SSDI beneficiaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 578.

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.

#### PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION DIRECTLY ACT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1375) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1375

*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 "Provide Accurate Information Directly Act" or "PAID Act".

#### SEC. 2. TRANSPARENCY OF MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER REPORTING INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1862(b)(8)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 395y(b)(8)(G)) is amended—

(1) by striking "INFORMATION.—The Secretary" and inserting "INFORMATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(ii) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—In responding to any query from an applicable plan related to a determination described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide to such applicable plan—

"(I) whether a claimant subject to the query is, or during the preceding 3-year period has been, entitled to benefits under the program under this title on any basis; and

"(II) to the extent applicable, the plan name and address of any Medicare Advantage plan under part C and any prescription drug plan under part D in which the claimant is enrolled or has been enrolled during such period."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to queries from plans made on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF SAVINGS INTO MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$0" and inserting "\$30,000,000".

#### SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that

such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1375, the Provide Accurate Information Directly Act of 2019, as amended, or the PAID Act, improves financial accountability by strengthening reporting regarding Medicare Advantage enrollees between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, and liability and other nongroup health plans.

Similar measures are already in place for traditional Medicare. With one in three Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, it is time that we enact this measure to bring parity for the program. At its core, this is a good governance program, which will improve integrity overall, and that is always welcome.

I would like to especially thank our fellow Ways and Means Committee member RON KIND, who has worked tirelessly at this to make sure that we corrected this anomaly in the legislation.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I write concerning H.R. 1375, the PAID Act, which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Committee).

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1375, the Committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1375.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2020.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: I am writing concerning H.R. 1375, the PAID Act, which as you are aware was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and additionally to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce under House Rule X. I acknowledge that your Committee will not consider H.R. 1375 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any further jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Energy and Commerce conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Chairman.

□ 1530

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Right now, Medicare Advantage is an extremely popular program for seniors in the country, with a 99 percent satisfaction rate. Many in Kansas and across the United States rely on this program for quality, affordable healthcare.

It is critical that we work together to find solutions to strengthen and improve Medicare Advantage. The Provide Accurate Information Directly Act, or the PAID Act, does exactly that.

At a time when partisan bickering seems to be louder than the needs of Americans here in Washington, this bipartisan solution will improve healthcare processes for thousands of seniors. The PAID Act ensures that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, is properly reimbursed for Medicare Advantage and Medicare part D costs that are covered by another settling party.

To better understand how this bill works for Medicare Advantage and its beneficiaries, let me offer you this scenario:

A 75-year-old Medicare beneficiary is crossing the street when she is hit by a car. She is taken to the hospital to be treated for her injuries where her care, subsequent physician visits, and prescription drugs are covered by her Medicare Advantage plan.

Following this, she files a claim with the auto insurer of the driver who accidentally hit her with his vehicle. Since her Medicare Advantage program paid for her hospital and follow-up care, the plan is entitled to seek reimbursement from the driver's auto insurer for healthcare costs resulting from this accident.

Due to the current reporting system, her Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare part D plan may never be reimbursed. This legislation would correct this issue, allowing Medicare to better share this information to determine if a claimant is a Medicare beneficiary and, if so, how much is owed on that beneficiary's behalf.

This information sharing is not new. Currently, Medicare parts A and B already share this information. Information of the related parties will only be shared once a request is filed and will protect the beneficiary's private medical information.

For too long, Medicare Advantage has been unable to receive proper reimbursement for the services they ensure are provided to our seniors. This bill is not only a significant process improvement, but it increases the longevity of this vital program.

Congress has not made any meaningful improvements to the process since 2007, when this body enacted reforms that allowed Medicare parts A and B to streamline this process. After 13 years of leaving other plans in the dark, this plan would provide a win for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, settling parties so that they can close out claims on time, CMS so they are allowed to recoup medical expenses, and, ultimately, the American taxpayer.

As the Representative for Kansas' Fourth District, strengthening and improving healthcare, especially Medicare Advantage, has been some of the most valuable representation I can provide to my constituents. I am sure many colleagues can say the same.

Currently, more than 28,000 of my constituents rely on Medicare Advantage because it still allows them to benefit from private-sector innovation. It is truly the best way to give seniors the care they need without sacrificing quality and while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Of all the process improvements that Congress can provide for this program in 2020, the PAID Act makes significant strides to ensure that our seniors and future generations can benefit from this program.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation at a time when bipartisan solutions are seemingly scarce. Together, we can build on reforms like this to continue to improve our healthcare, rebuild our economy, and deliver meaningful relief to Americans looking to Congress for leadership through the challenges our country is facing.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is one of the sponsors of this bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1375, the Provide Accurate Information Directly Act, or the PAID Act.

Medicare secondary payer laws enacted in the 1980s have failed to stay current with Medicare. Medicare Advantage and part D have changed the way beneficiaries engage with Medicare and provide an opportunity for potential secondary payer issues due to a lack of coordination.

The PAID Act allows settling parties to repay MSP amounts and allows for the coordination of benefits by requiring CMS to share necessary information. Specifically, the PAID Act authorizes settling parties to receive the same information CMS currently provides group health plans about Medicare Advantage and part D plan enrollment information.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense bill. I thank the leader, the manager, and also the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for their leadership. I appreciate it. This is a really good bill. Let's get it done.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1375, the Provide Accurate Information Directly (or PAID) Act.

Medicare Secondary Payer laws enacted in the '80s have failed to stay current with Medicare. Medicare Advantage (or MA) and Part D have changed the way beneficiaries engage with Medicare and provide an opportunity for potential secondary payer issues due to a lack of coordination.

The PAID Act allows settling parties to repay MSP amounts, and allow for the coordination of benefits, by requiring CMS to share necessary information. Specifically, the PAID Act authorizes settling parties to receive the same information CMS currently provides Group Health Plans about MA and Part D plan enrollment information.

I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense bill.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, at a time when bipartisan solutions are becoming rarer, the PAID Act is a meaningful, commonsense measure that will provide financial stability and longevity to Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage is the best way to give seniors the care they need without sacrificing quality and maintaining fiscal responsibility. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure to allow this program to continue serving our seniors.

America is looking toward Congress for leadership through all of the new challenges we face. Throughout our history, the United States has rarely needed bipartisanship more than it does now. We must work together to

improve healthcare, rebuild our economy, and deliver meaningful relief to our Nation.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, again, I would like to thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, with a special thanks to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) for his continued work on this.

RON KIND from Wisconsin has been fighting for practical, commonsense legislation like this almost every day that he has been in Congress since I have known him. A true sign of a Harvard quarterback is that he continues to be persistent. I want to thank him again for his hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1375, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1375, 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.

#### BENEFICIARY ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2477) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2477

*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 "Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification Act of 2020" or the "BENES Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. BENEFICIARY ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SIMPLIFICATION.

(a) ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT NOTICES.—

(1) AS PART OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS ATTAINING AGES 63 TO 65.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1143(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-13(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of statements provided on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph to individuals who are attaining ages 63, 64, and 65, the statement shall also include a notice containing the information described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—The notice required under subparagraph (A) shall include a clear, simple explanation of—

“(i) eligibility for benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII, and in particular benefits under parts B and C of such title;

“(ii) the reasons a late enrollment penalty for failure to timely enroll could be assessed and how such late enrollment penalty is calculated, in particular for benefits under such part B;

“(iii) the availability of relief from such late enrollment penalty and retroactive enrollment under section 1837(h) (including as such section is applied under sections 1818(c) and 1818A(c)(3)), with examples of circumstances under which such relief may be granted and examples of circumstances under which such relief would not be granted;

“(iv) coordination of benefits (including primary and secondary coverage scenarios) pursuant to section 1862(b), in particular for benefits under such part B;

“(v) enrollment, eligibility, and coordination of benefits under title XVIII with respect to populations, for whom there are special considerations, such as residents of Puerto Rico and veterans; and

“(vi) online resources and toll-free telephone numbers of the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (including 1-800-MEDICARE and the national toll-free number of the Social Security Administration) that provide information on eligibility for benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII, including under part C of such title.

“(C) DEVELOPMENT OF NOTICE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, and taking into consideration information collected pursuant to clause (ii), shall, not later than 12 months after the last day of the period for the request of information described in clause (ii), develop the notice to be provided pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(ii) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall request written information, including recommendations, from stakeholders (including the groups described in subparagraph (D)) on the information to be included in the notice.

“(iii) NOTICE IMPROVEMENT.—Beginning 4 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and not less than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall—

“(I) review the content of the notice to be provided under subparagraph (A);

“(II) request written information, including recommendations, on such notice through a request for information process as described in clause (ii); and

“(III) update and revise such notice as the Secretary deems appropriate.

“(D) GROUPS.—For purposes of subparagraph (C)(ii), the groups described in this subparagraph include the following:

“(i) Individuals who are 60 years of age or older.

“(ii) Veterans.

“(iii) Individuals with disabilities.

“(iv) Individuals with end stage renal disease.

“(v) Low-income individuals and families.

“(vi) Employers (including human resources professionals).

“(vii) States (including representatives of State-run Health Insurance Exchanges, Medicaid offices, and Departments of Insurance).

“(viii) State Health Insurance Assistance Programs.

“(ix) Health insurers.

“(x) Health insurance agents and brokers.  
“(xi) Such other groups as specified by the Secretary.

“(E) POSTING OF NOTICE ON WEBSITES.—The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall post the notice required under subparagraph (A) on the public Internet website of the Social Security Administration and on Medicare.gov (or a successor website), respectively.

“(F) REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Effective for fiscal years beginning in the year in which the date of enactment of this paragraph occurs, the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall enter into an agreement under which the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 (in such proportion as the Secretary determines appropriate), of such sums as necessary to cover the administrative costs of the Commissioner’s activities under this paragraph. Such agreement shall—

“(I) provide funds to the Commissioner for the administrative costs of the Social Security Administration’s work related to the implementation of this paragraph, including any initial costs incurred prior to the finalization of such agreement;

“(II) provide such funding quarterly in advance of the applicable quarter based on estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary; and

“(III) require an annual accounting (with a detailed description of the costs and methodology used to assess such costs) and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and funds provided under this paragraph.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—In no case shall funds from the Social Security Administration’s Limitation on Administrative Expenses be used to carry out activities related to the implementation of this paragraph, except as the Commissioner determines is necessary—

“(I) for the development of the agreement under clause (i); and

“(II) on a temporary basis and subject to reimbursement under clause (i)(I), for the initial implementation of this paragraph.

“(G) NO EFFECT ON OBLIGATION TO MAIL STATEMENTS.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to relieve the Commissioner of Social Security from any requirement under subsection (c), including the requirement to mail a statement on an annual basis to each eligible individual who is not receiving benefits under title II and for whom a mailing address can be determined through such methods as the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.”

(B) TIMING OF STATEMENTS.—Section 1143(c)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-13(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “With respect to statements provided to individuals who are attaining age 65, as described in subsection (a)(4), such statements shall be mailed not earlier than 6 months and not later than 3 months before the individual attains such age.”

(2) SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES.—Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1144 the following new section:

“MEDICARE ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY NOTICES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES PRIOR TO MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY

“Notices

“SEC. 1144A. (a)

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall distribute the notice to be provided pursuant to section 1143(a)(4), as may be modified under paragraph (2), to individuals entitled to monthly insurance bene-

fits under title II in accordance with subsection (b).

“(2) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY NOTICE.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, may modify the notice to be distributed under paragraph (1) as necessary to take into account the individuals described in such paragraph.

“(3) POSTING OF NOTICE ON WEBSITES.—The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall post the notice required to be distributed under paragraph (1) on the public Internet website of the Social Security Administration and on Medicare.gov (or a successor website), respectively.

“Timing

“(b) Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, a notice required under subsection (a)(1) shall be mailed to an individual described in such subsection—

“(1) in the third month before the date on which such individual’s initial enrollment period begins as provided under section 1837; and

“(2) in the case of an individual with respect to whom section 226(b) applies (except for an individual who will attain age 65 during the 24 month period described in such section), in the month before such date on which such individual’s initial enrollment period so begins.

“Reimbursement of Costs

“(c)

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective for fiscal years beginning in the year in which the date of enactment of this section occurs, the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary shall enter into an agreement under which the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 (in such proportion as the Secretary determines appropriate), of such sums as necessary to cover the administrative costs of the Commissioner’s activities under this section. Such agreement shall—

“(A) provide funds to the Commissioner for the administrative costs of the Social Security Administration’s work related to the implementation of this section, including any initial costs incurred prior to the finalization of such agreement;

“(B) provide such funding quarterly in advance of the applicable quarter based on estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary; and

“(C) require an annual accounting (with a detailed description of the costs and methodology used to assess such costs) and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and funds provided under this paragraph.

“(2) LIMITATION.—In no case shall funds from the Social Security Administration’s Limitation on Administrative Expenses be used to carry out activities related to the implementation of this section, except as the Commissioner determines is necessary—

“(A) for the development of the agreement under paragraph (1); and

“(B) on a temporary basis and subject to reimbursement under paragraph (1)(A), for the initial implementation of this section.”

(b) BENEFICIARY ENROLLMENT SIMPLIFICATION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE.—Section 1838(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q(a)) is amended—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2)(A) in the case of an individual who enrolls pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1837 before the month in which he first satisfies paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1836(a), the first day of such month,

“(B) in the case of an individual who first satisfies such paragraph in a month beginning before January 2023 and who enrolls pursuant to such subsection (d)—

“(i) in such month in which he first satisfies such paragraph, the first day of the month following the month in which he so enrolls,

“(ii) in the month following such month in which he first satisfies such paragraph, the first day of the second month following the month in which he so enrolls, or

“(iii) more than one month following such month in which he satisfies such paragraph, the first day of the third month following the month in which he so enrolls,

“(C) in the case of an individual who first satisfies such paragraph in a month beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and who enrolls pursuant to such subsection (d) in such month in which he first satisfies such paragraph or in any subsequent month of his initial enrollment period, the first day of the month following the month in which he so enrolls, or

“(D) in the case of an individual who enrolls pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1837 in a month beginning—

“(i) before January 1, 2023, the July 1 following the month in which he so enrolls; or

“(ii) on or after January 1, 2023, the first day of the month following the month in which he so enrolls; or”; and

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

“(3) in the case of an individual who is deemed to have enrolled—

“(A) on or before the last day of the third month of his initial enrollment period, the first day of the month in which he first meets the applicable requirements of section 1836(a) or July 1, 1973, whichever is later, or

“(B) on or after the first day of the fourth month of his initial enrollment period, and where such month begins—

“(i) before January 1, 2023, as prescribed under subparagraphs (B)(i), (B)(ii), (B)(iii), and (D)(i) of paragraph (2), or

“(ii) on or after January 1, 2023, as prescribed under subparagraphs (C) and (D)(ii) of paragraph (2).”

(2) SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(A) ENROLLMENT.—Section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) Beginning January 1, 2023, the Secretary may establish special enrollment periods in the case of individuals who satisfy paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1836(a) and meet such exceptional conditions as the Secretary may provide.”

(B) COVERAGE PERIOD.—Section 1838 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the case of an individual who enrolls during a special enrollment period pursuant to section 1837(m), the coverage period shall begin on a date the Secretary provides in a manner consistent (to the extent practicable) with protecting continuity of health benefit coverage.”

(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) is amended—

(i) in section 1818A(c)(3), by striking “subsections (h) and (i) of section 1837” and inserting “subsections (h), (i), and (m) of section 1837”; and

(ii) in section 1839(b), in the first sentence, by striking “or (1)” and inserting “(1), or (m)”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 1839(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(b))

is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "For purposes of determining any increase under this subsection for individuals whose enrollment occurs on or after January 1, 2023, the second sentence of this subsection shall be applied by substituting 'close of the month' for 'close of the enrollment period' each place it appears."

(4) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance and Special Committee on Aging of the Senate a report on how to align existing Medicare enrollment periods under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, including the general enrollment period under part B of such title and the annual, coordinated election period under the Medicare Advantage program under part C of such title and under the prescription drug program under part D of such title. Such report shall include recommendations consistent with the goals of maximizing coverage continuity and choice and easing beneficiary transition.

(5) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller General") shall conduct a study on the activities carried out under this section. Such study shall include the following:

(i) An analysis of the Social Security Administration's use of the funds provided to carry out the activities described under this section and the amendments made by this section. The Comptroller General shall examine the amount of funds transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, respectively, for those activities; how the funds were spent; what procedures the agency had in place over the use of those funds; and how the agency complied with those procedures.

(ii) An evaluation of the notices described in sections 1143(a)(4)(A) and 1144A(a) of the Social Security Act, including, to the extent data is available, how the mailing of such notices affected enrollee behavior and the imposition of late enrollment penalties under Medicare Part B.

(iii) Any other area determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1), including recommendations for any legislative and administrative actions as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(C) FUNDING.—Section 1808 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b-9) is amended by adding the end the following new subsection:

"(e) FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BENEFICIARY ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SIMPLIFICATION.—For purposes of carrying out the provisions of and the amendments made by section 2 of the BENES Act of 2020, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 (in such proportion as the Secretary determines appropriate), to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account, of \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended."

### SEC. 3. EXTENDED MONTHS OF COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AND OTHER RENAL DIALYSIS PROVISIONS.

(A) MEDICARE ENTITLEMENT TO IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 226A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426-1(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "(except for eligibility for enrollment under part B solely for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs described in section 1861(s)(2)(J))" before "with the thirty-sixth month".

(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE ONLY FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1836 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395o) is amended—

(i) by striking "Every" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Every"; and

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

"(b) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUG COVERAGE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), every individual whose entitlement to insurance benefits under part A ends (whether before, on, or after January 1, 2023) by reason of section 226A(b)(2) is eligible to enroll or to be deemed to have enrolled in the medical insurance program established by this part solely for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs in accordance with section 1837(n).

"(2) EXCEPTION IF OTHER COVERAGE IS AVAILABLE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual described in paragraph (1) shall not be eligible for enrollment in the program for purposes of coverage described in such paragraph with respect to any period in which the individual, as determined in accordance with subparagraph (B)—

"(i) is enrolled in a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage, as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act;

"(ii) is enrolled for coverage under the TRICARE for Life program under section 1086(d) of title 10, United States Code;

"(iii) is enrolled under a State plan (or waiver of such plan) under title XIX and is eligible to receive benefits for immunosuppressive drugs described in this subsection under such plan (or such waiver);

"(iv) is enrolled under a State child health plan (or waiver of such plan) under title XXI and is eligible to receive benefits for such drugs under such plan (or such waiver); or

"(v)(I) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

"(II) is not required to enroll under section 1705 of such title to receive immunosuppressive drugs described in this subsection; or

"(III) is otherwise eligible under a provision of title 38, United States Code, other than section 1710 of such title to receive immunosuppressive drugs described in this subsection.

"(B) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a process for determining whether an individual described in paragraph (1) who is to be enrolled or deemed to be enrolled in the medical insurance program described in such paragraph meets the requirements for such enrollment under this subsection, including the requirement that the individual not be enrolled in other coverage as described in subparagraph (A).

"(ii) ATTESTATION REGARDING OTHER COVERAGE.—The process established under clause (i) shall include, at a minimum, a requirement that—

"(I) the individual provide to the Commissioner an attestation that the individual is not enrolled and does not expect to enroll in such other coverage; and

"(II) the individual notify the Commissioner within 60 days of enrollment in such other coverage."

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Sections 1837, 1838, and 1839 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p, 42 U.S.C. 1395q, 42 U.S.C. 1395r) are each amended by striking "1836" and inserting "1836(a)" each place it appears.

(ii) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1837(j)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p(j)(1)) is amended by striking "1836(1)" and inserting "1836(a)(1)".

(b) ENROLLMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—Section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p), as amended by section 2(b)(2)(A), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(n)(1) Any individual who is eligible for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b) may enroll or be deemed to have enrolled only in such manner and form as may be prescribed by regulations, and only during an enrollment period described in this subsection.

"(2) An individual described in paragraph (1) whose entitlement for hospital insurance benefits under part A ends by reason of section 226A(b)(2) prior to January 1, 2023, may enroll beginning on October 1, 2022, or the day on which the individual first satisfies section 1836(b), whichever is later.

"(3) An individual described in paragraph (1) whose entitlement for hospital insurance benefits under part A ends by reason of section 226A(b)(2) on or after January 1, 2023, shall be deemed to have enrolled in the medical insurance program established by this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs.

"(4) The Secretary shall establish a process under which an individual described in paragraph (1) whose other coverage described in section 1836(b)(2)(A), or coverage under this part (including the medical insurance program established under this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs), is terminated voluntarily or involuntarily may enroll or reenroll, if applicable, in the medical insurance program established under this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs."

(C) COVERAGE PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1838 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q), as amended by section 2(b)(2)(B), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) In the case of an individual described in section 1836(b)(1), the following rules shall apply:

"(1) In the case of such an individual who is deemed to have enrolled in part B for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1837(n)(3), such individual's coverage period shall begin on the first day of the month in which the individual first satisfies section 1836(b).

"(2) In the case of such an individual who enrolls (or reenrolls, if applicable) in part B for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under paragraph (2) or (4) of section 1837(n), such individual's coverage period shall begin on January 1, 2023, or the month following the month in which the individual so enrolls (or reenrolls), whichever is later.

"(3) The provisions of subsections (b) and (d) shall apply with respect to an individual described in paragraph (1) or (2).

"(4) In addition to the reasons for termination under subsection (b), the coverage period of an individual described in paragraph

(1) or (2) shall end when the individual becomes entitled to benefits under this title under subsection (a) or (b) of section 226, or under section 226A, or is no longer eligible for such coverage as a result of the application of section 1836(b)(2).

“(5) The Secretary may conduct public education activities to raise awareness of the availability of more comprehensive, individual health insurance coverage (as defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act) for individuals eligible under section 1836(b) to enroll or to be deemed enrolled in the medical insurance program established under this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1838(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q(b)) is amended, in the matter following paragraph (2), by inserting “or section 1837(n)(3)” after “section 1837(f)” each place it appears.

(d) PREMIUMS FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1839 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “No increase in the premium shall be effected for individuals who are enrolled pursuant to section 1836(b) for coverage only of immunosuppressive drugs.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) DETERMINATION OF PREMIUM FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—The Secretary shall, during September of each year (beginning with 2022), determine and promulgate a monthly premium rate for the succeeding calendar year for individuals enrolled only for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b). Such premium shall be equal to 15 percent of the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over (as would be determined in accordance with subsection (a)(1) if the reference to ‘one-half’ in such subsection were a reference to ‘100 percent’) for that succeeding calendar year. The monthly premium of each individual enrolled for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b) for each month shall be the amount promulgated in this subsection. In the case of such individual not otherwise enrolled under this part, such premium shall be in lieu of any other monthly premium applicable under this section. Such amount shall be adjusted in accordance with subsections (c), (f), and (i), but shall not be adjusted under subsection (b).”.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR APPLICATION OF HOLD HARMLESS PROVISIONS TO TRANSITIONING INDIVIDUALS.—Section 1839(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Any increase in the premium for an individual who was enrolled under section 1836(b) attributable to such individual otherwise enrolling under this part shall not be taken into account in applying this subsection.”.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR APPLICATION OF PREMIUM SUBSIDY REDUCTION PROVISIONS.—Section 1839(i)(3)(A)(ii)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(i)(3)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended by inserting “except in the case of an individual enrolled under section 1836(b) and not otherwise enrolled under this part,” before “4 times”.

(e) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION.—Section 1844(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; plus”;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) a Government contribution equal to the estimated aggregate reduction in premiums payable under part B that results from establishing the premium at 15 percent of the actuarial rate (as would be determined in accordance with section 1839(a)(1) if the reference to ‘one-half’ in such section were a reference to ‘100 percent’) under section 1839(j) instead of 25 percent of such rate (as so determined) for individuals enrolled only for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b).”; and

(3) by adding the following sentence at the end of the flush matter following paragraph (4), as added by paragraph (2) of this subsection:

“The Government contribution under paragraph (4) shall be treated as premiums payable and deposited for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).”.

(f) ENSURING COVERAGE UNDER THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(p)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(p)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “or who is enrolled under part B for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b)” after “under section 1818A”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1902(a)(10)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)) is amended in each of clauses (ii) and (iv) by inserting “(including such individuals enrolled under section 1836(b))” after “section 1905(p)(1)”.

(g) PART D.—Section 1860D-1(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting “(but not including an individual enrolled solely for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b))” before the period at the end.

(h) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this subsection referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the implementation of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients under the Medicare program pursuant to the provisions of, and amendments made by, this section.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under paragraph (1), together with recommendations as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

**SEC. 4. TRANSPARENCY OF MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER REPORTING INFORMATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1862(b)(8)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 395y(b)(8)(G)) is amended—

(1) by striking “INFORMATION.—The Secretary” and inserting “INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—In responding to any query from an applicable plan related to a determination described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide to such applicable plan—

“(I) whether a claimant subject to the query is, or during the preceding 3-year period has been, entitled to benefits under the program under this title on any basis; and

“(II) to the extent applicable, the plan name and address of any Medicare Advantage plan under part C and any prescription drug plan under part D in which the claimant is enrolled or has been enrolled during such period.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to queries from plans made on or after

the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 5. ESTABLISHING HOSPICE PROGRAM SURVEY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

(a) SURVEY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 1822. HOSPICE PROGRAM SURVEY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

“(a) SURVEYS.—

“(1) FREQUENCY.—Any entity that is certified as a hospice program shall be subject to a standard survey by an appropriate State or local survey agency, or an approved accreditation agency, as determined by the Secretary, not less frequently than once every 36 months (and not less frequently than once every 24 months beginning October 1, 2021).

“(2) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY OF SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

“(A) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State, and each national accreditation body with respect to which the Secretary has made a finding under section 1865(a) respecting the accreditation of a hospice program by such body, shall submit, in a form and manner, and at a time, specified by the Secretary for purposes of this subparagraph, information respecting any survey or certification made with respect to a hospice program by such State or body, as applicable. Such information shall include any inspection report made by such State or body with respect to such survey or certification, any enforcement actions taken as a result of such survey or certification, and any other information determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(ii) REQUIRED INCLUSION OF SPECIFIED FORM.—With respect to a survey under this subsection carried out by a national accreditation body described in clause (i) on or after October 1, 2021, information described in such clause shall include Form 2567 (or a successor form), along with such additional information determined appropriate by such body.

“(B) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Beginning not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary shall publish the information submitted under subparagraph (A) on the public website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in a manner that is prominent, easily accessible, readily understandable, and searchable. The Secretary shall provide for the timely update of such information so published.

“(3) CONSISTENCY OF SURVEYS.—Each State and the Secretary shall implement programs to measure and reduce inconsistency in the application of survey results among surveyors.

“(4) SURVEY TEAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a survey conducted under this subsection on or after October 1, 2021, by more than 1 individual, such survey shall be conducted by a multidisciplinary team of professionals (including a registered professional nurse).

“(B) PROHIBITION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Beginning October 1, 2021, a State may not use as a member of a survey team under this subsection an individual who is serving (or has served within the previous 2 years) as a member of the staff of, or as a consultant to, the program surveyed respecting compliance with the requirements of section 1861(dd) or who has a personal or familial financial interest in the program being surveyed.

“(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall provide, not later than October 1, 2021, for the comprehensive training of State and Federal surveyors, and any surveyor employed by a national accreditation body described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), in the conduct of surveys under this subsection, including training with respect to the review of written plans for providing hospice care (as described in section 1814(a)(7)(B)). No individual shall serve as a member of a survey team with respect to a survey conducted on or after such date unless the individual has successfully completed a training and testing program in survey and certification techniques that has been approved by the Secretary.

“(5) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account, of \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2022) for purposes of carrying out this subsection and subsection (b). Sums so transferred shall remain available until expended. Any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to any transfer pursuant to section 3(a)(2) of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014.

“(b) SPECIAL FOCUS PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a special focus program for enforcement of requirements for hospice programs that the Secretary has identified as having substantially failed to meet applicable requirements of this Act.

“(2) PERIODIC SURVEYS.—Under such special focus program, the Secretary shall conduct surveys of each hospice program in the special focus program not less than once every 6 months.

“(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) SITUATIONS INVOLVING IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY.—If the Secretary determines on the basis of a standard survey or otherwise that a hospice program that is certified for participation under this title is no longer in compliance with the requirements specified in section 1861(dd) and determines that the deficiencies involved immediately jeopardize the health and safety of the individuals to whom the program furnishes items and services, the Secretary shall take immediate action to remove the jeopardy and correct the deficiencies through the remedy described in paragraph (5)(B)(iii) or terminate the certification of the program, and may provide, in addition, for 1 or more of the other remedies described in paragraph (5)(B).

“(2) SITUATIONS NOT INVOLVING IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY.—If the Secretary determines on the basis of a standard survey or otherwise that a hospice program that is certified for participation under this title is no longer in compliance with the requirements specified in section 1861(dd) and determines that the deficiencies involved do not immediately jeopardize the health and safety of the individuals to whom the program furnishes items and services, the Secretary may (for a period not to exceed 6 months) impose remedies developed pursuant to paragraph (5)(A), in lieu of terminating the certification of the program. If, after such a period of remedies, the program is still no longer in compliance with such requirements, the Secretary shall terminate the certification of the program.

“(3) PENALTY FOR PREVIOUS NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines that a hospice program that is certified for participation under this title is in compliance with the requirements specified in section 1861(dd) but, as of a previous period, did not meet such requirements, the Secretary may provide for a civil monetary penalty under paragraph (5)(B)(i) for the days in which the Sec-

retary finds that the program was not in compliance with such requirements.

“(4) OPTION TO CONTINUE PAYMENTS FOR NONCOMPLIANT HOSPICE PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may continue payments under this title with respect to a hospice program not in compliance with the requirements specified in section 1861(dd) over a period of not longer than 6 months, if—

“(A) the State or local survey agency finds that it is more appropriate to take alternative action to assure compliance of the program with such requirements than to terminate the certification of the program;

“(B) the program has submitted a plan and timetable for corrective action to the Secretary for approval and the Secretary approves the plan of corrective action; and

“(C) the program agrees to repay to the Federal Government payments received under this title during such period if the corrective action is not taken in accordance with the approved plan and timetable. The Secretary shall establish guidelines for approval of corrective actions requested by hospice programs under this paragraph.

“(5) REMEDIES.—

“(A) DEVELOPMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2021, the Secretary shall develop and implement—

“(I) a range of remedies to apply to hospice programs under the conditions described in paragraphs (1) through (4); and

“(II) appropriate procedures for appealing determinations relating to the imposition of such remedies.

Remedies developed pursuant to the preceding sentence shall include the remedies specified in subparagraph (B).

“(ii) CONDITIONS OF IMPOSITION OF REMEDIES.—Not later than October 1, 2021, the Secretary shall develop and implement specific procedures with respect to the conditions under which each of the remedies developed under clause (i) is to be applied, including the amount of any fines and the severity of each of these remedies. Such procedures shall be designed so as to minimize the time between identification of deficiencies and imposition of these remedies and shall provide for the imposition of incrementally more severe fines for repeated or uncorrected deficiencies.

“(B) SPECIFIED REMEDIES.—The remedies specified in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) Civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each day of non-compliance by a hospice program with the requirements specified in section 1861(dd).

“(ii) Suspension of all or part of the payments to which a hospice program would otherwise be entitled under this title with respect to items and services furnished by a hospice program on or after the date on which the Secretary determines that remedies should be imposed pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(iii) The appointment of temporary management to oversee the operation of the hospice program and to protect and assure the health and safety of the individuals under the care of the program while improvements are made in order to bring the program into compliance with all such requirements.

“(C) PROCEDURES.—

“(i) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b)) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty under this subsection in the same manner as such provisions apply to a penalty or proceeding under section 1128A(a).

“(II) RETENTION OF AMOUNTS FOR HOSPICE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary may provide that any portion of civil mone-

tary penalties collected under this subsection may be used to support activities that benefit individuals receiving hospice care, including education and training programs to ensure hospice program compliance with the requirements of section 1861(dd).

“(ii) SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT.—A finding to suspend payment under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall terminate when the Secretary finds that the program is in substantial compliance with all such requirements.

“(iii) TEMPORARY MANAGEMENT.—The temporary management under subparagraph (B)(iii) shall not be terminated until the Secretary has determined that the program has the management capability to ensure continued compliance with all the requirements referred to in such subparagraph.

“(D) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REMEDIES.—The remedies developed under subparagraph (A) are in addition to sanctions otherwise available under State or Federal law and shall not be construed as limiting other remedies, including any remedy available to an individual at common law.”

(2) AVAILABILITY OF HOSPICE ACCREDITATION SURVEYS.—Section 1865(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb(b)) is amended by inserting “or, beginning on the date of the enactment of the BENES Act of 2020, a hospice program” after “home health agency”.

(3) STATE PROVISION OF HOSPICE PROGRAM INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1864(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aa(a)) is amended in the sixth sentence—

(i) by inserting “and hospice programs” after “information on home health agencies”;

(ii) by inserting “or the hospice program” after “the home health agency”;

(iii) by inserting “or the hospice program” after “with respect to the agency”; and

(iv) by inserting “and hospice programs” after “with respect to home health agencies”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall apply with respect to agreements entered into on or after, or in effect as of, the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION OF A HOSPICE PROGRAM.—Section 1861(dd)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

(B) CONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—Section 3(a)(2) of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 is amended by inserting “and section 1822(a)(1) of such Act,” after “as added by paragraph (1).”

(b) INCREASING PAYMENT REDUCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO MEET QUALITY DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1814(i)(5)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)(5)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting “(or, for fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, 4 percentage points)” before the period.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report containing an analysis of the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a), including the frequency of application of remedies specified in section 1822(c)(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (as added by such subsection), on access to, and quality of, care furnished by hospice programs under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2477, the Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification Act of 2020, as amended, includes four policies that improve Medicare enrollment, access, and quality of care.

First, the BENES Act, as I shall continue to call it, introduced by my colleague, Representative RAUL RUIZ, fills a longstanding gap in education for older adults and people with disabilities, eliminating needless multimonth coverage gaps in Medicare by mandating that part B insurance begin the first month following an individual's enrollment during both the later months of the beneficiary's initial enrollment period and during the general enrollment period.

The BENES Act also provides increased notification to better inform older adults and people with disabilities about Medicare eligibility enrollment.

The BENES Act also allows the Federal Government to create a part B special enrollment period for exceptional circumstances, like natural disasters.

Complex Medicare enrollment rules and inadequate notification cause tens of thousands of older adults and people with disabilities to face lifetime fines, coverage gaps, and other harmful consequences. Individuals who miss their initial Medicare enrollment window may pay lifetime late enrollment penalties, experience lengthy gaps in outpatient health coverage, or face unaffordable and unexpected out-of-pocket healthcare costs.

The bill under consideration today also includes two provisions based on legislation again championed by RON KIND from Wisconsin. The first will provide access to immunosuppressive therapy to individuals after a kidney transplant.

I have heard from the Hartford Hospital kidney transplant group and National Kidney Foundation how vitally important this legislation is, and I am pleased that it is included.

The second provision will make improvements to reporting regarding Medicare Advantage enrollees between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and liability and non-group

health plans to improve financial accountability.

Finally, H.R. 2477 includes language from H.R. 5821, the bipartisan Helping Our Senior Population in Comfort Environments Act, or the HOSPICE Act, introduced by my Ways and Means colleagues, Representatives JIMMY PANETTA and TOM REED.

This policy addresses vital program integrity concerns identified by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General in 2019 through a series of much-needed reforms that provide additional oversight and transparency of Medicare hospice providers.

The changes in this bill align the HHS Secretary's oversight tools with those of other Medicare providers, including skilled nursing facilities and home health providers. These reforms are vital to improving the quality of care delivered to some of the most vulnerable patients in the healthcare system.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2477, the Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification Act, or the BENES Act.

This important bipartisan legislation will improve education and outreach to Americans approaching Medicare age while simplifying the part B enrollment process, which hasn't been updated in over 50 years.

Currently, Medicare enrollment is often too complicated and confusing, and in the event of a mistake, very costly. The consequences of making a simple mistake in the enrollment process can be significant, with a lifetime late enrollment penalty of 10 percent for every year a beneficiary hasn't enrolled in part B.

According to a Congressional Research Service report, last year, approximately 764,000 part B enrollees paid an average penalty of nearly 30 percent higher Medicare premiums. That is a superheavy financial burden these Medicare beneficiaries will carry throughout their retirement. That is what the BENES Act aims to help seniors avoid.

This vital bill will help prevent late enrollment penalties by sending an advance notice about the Medicare enrollment process to Americans approaching Medicare eligibility. It will also prevent gaps in coverage by requiring that part B coverage begin during the first month after an individual enrolls through either the initial enrollment period or general enrollment period.

These long-overdue reforms will significantly improve the health and well-being of Medicare beneficiaries and protect America's seniors from unnecessary penalties and unexpected healthcare bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman LARSON, and I appreciate all of his work and, of course, his support and friendship.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2477, the BENES Act, which includes my bill and TOM REED's bill, the bipartisan HOSPICE Act.

Now, I think we can all agree that every family wants to ensure that their loved one in hospice receives the end-of-life care that is compassionate, that is cautious, and, of course, that is circumspect so that they can pass with dignity and all of us are at peace.

Now, we know while most of our Nation's Medicare hospice care providers work tirelessly to ensure their patients receive high quality care, there are, unfortunately, bad actors. That is why we introduced the bipartisan HOSPICE Act, so that through education, outreach, and even liability we can safeguard care for Medicare hospice enrollees, increase transparency and safety, and penalize those who fail to provide the necessary care for their patients.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to ensure that hospice care is not just about death, but it is about death with dignity, integrity, and accountability.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2477, which includes some legislation to improve Medicare coverage for kidney transplant recipients.

The Trump administration has made increasing rates of kidney transplantation a priority. It is more cost-effective than dialysis and results in a dramatic increase in the quality of life for ESRD patients. However, these patients must continue taking medication for the remainder of their life so that they don't reject their organs.

Currently, Medicare will only cover the cost of these drugs for 36 months after a kidney transplant. Patients who do not have health insurance or lose their insurance coverage have to choose between paying thousands of dollars a month out of pocket or risk the chance of rejection of their organs.

If organ rejection does occur, these patients must once again endure the painful, time-consuming, and expensive dialysis treatments paid for by the Medicare program. By simply paying for the cost of these drugs and preventing patients from crashing back into dialysis, the Federal Government

can save hundreds of millions of dollars and improve thousands of lives.

We should not allow such unnecessary waste and suffering to occur. These Americans should not have to worry about how they will afford the cost of the medications that allow them to live a completely normal life.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives KIND and BURGESS for their leadership and for working together on this commonsense bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to pass H.R. 2477.

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the HOSPICE bill, which is a part of the overall BENES Act we are debating today. And I am proud to support the HOSPICE bill that I introduced and authored with my good friend, JIMMY PANETTA, from California.

Madam Speaker, I can tell you, when loved ones, like my mother, became sick, it is common to be left feeling helpless and for families not having the resources to deal with that terrible situation. But I thank God every day we were able to support my mother with a wonderful team, not only of our family but of our hospice care providers. They gave her, and they gave us, the needed companionship and resources to have some sense of normalcy at the end of her illness. That experience reaffirmed the critical importance of the quality-of-life care that hospice care represents.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am a hospice volunteer in my personal time here in Washington, D.C. I am a strong advocate for hospice care across America.

However, while most hospice employees and volunteers and compassionate caregivers are good, hardworking individuals, there are some who neglect and potentially even abuse patients in that situation. We must hold those bad actors accountable. We must demand additional oversight of hospice providers. We must educate providers with additional training to ensure patients receive the best and most proper level of care they deserve.

We are confident this legislation would do just that by giving HHS the tools it needs to penalize those that provide poor quality care. Our legislation would also improve provider transparency by requiring States to maintain a toll-free hotline where abuse and neglect can be reported.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand in support of this legislation. More importantly, I am proud to be a hospice volunteer myself, and I am proud to stand with the hospice community that is giving so much great quality care to those that need it most in their most precious time that they have left.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and the un-

derlying legislation upon which it rides.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2477, the Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification Act, the BENES Act.

Unfortunately, complex and confusing Medicare enrollment rules combined with a lack of notification cause tens of thousands of older adults and people with disabilities to incur lifetime fines, coverage gaps, and other harmful consequences. This is not fair to our seniors. With fewer people automatically enrolled in Medicare and 10,000 baby boomers aging into Medicare each day, more people new to Medicare must actively enroll in the program.

To address this issue, the BENES Act is here for us. It directs the Federal Government to provide advance notice to individuals approaching Medicare eligibility about basic Medicare and Medicare Advantage enrollment rules.

It directs Part B to begin the first of the month following one's enrollment during both the later months of their initial enrollment period and during the general enrollment period, closing coverage gaps.

It also requires HHS to submit a report to Congress on how best to align the annual general enrollment period with the annual enrollment period for private Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D prescription drug plans to reduce confusion.

And it enables HHS to create a Part B special enrollment period for exceptional circumstances; a provision currently used in Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D when people are unable to sign up for Medicare due to occurrences, like living in an area impacted by a disaster or emergency.

I thank my colleague, Dr. RUIZ, for his leadership and partnership on this particular bill.

Madam Speaker, all of these bills are so vital to our seniors, very important bills, and I am glad we are passing them in a bipartisan fashion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues, again, to support this commonsense protective measure for seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2477, the Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification Act.

The notification system created in this bill for individuals approaching

the age of eligibility for Social Security will soon provide a notice explaining: First, enrollment; second, eligibility; and coordination of Medicare benefits.

And why is that so important in the case of Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico has a participation rate of 70 percent in Medicare Advantage. That will tell you how important it is for us. This will be especially beneficial where Medicare recipients must make the affirmative step of signing up for Medicare Part B, rather than be automatically enrolled upon turning 65, unlike anywhere else in the Nation. This is something that we have been fighting for many years.

The lack of adequate notice of this difference has resulted in a substantially higher percentage of Medicare Part B enrollees in Puerto Rico paying lifetime late enrollment penalties of 10 percent of the premium for every year they failed to enroll.

Currently, almost 40,000 Medicare beneficiaries who live in Puerto Rico are paying lifetime penalties of \$20.3 million a year. These penalties are particularly difficult when you take into account that 43.5 percent of my constituents live in poverty and they are not eligible for SSI or Medicare subsidies.

Madam Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2310 to address this disparity and encourage my colleagues to also support this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2477 and support our seniors.

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for the recognition.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of a bill that includes coverage for immunosuppressive drugs after a kidney transplant. This is something we have worked on for a decade but, more importantly, for kidney patients and their families, this has been a priority for much, much longer.

Madam Speaker, today's bill is monumental in the life of the transplant patient. In 1972, Congress voted to allow Medicare coverage for end-stage renal disease patients under 65 years of age. The policy opened the doors for patients to have Medicare pay for dialysis and kidney transplants, but it wasn't quite enough.

A new kidney gives the hope of a better quality of life to patients, but only if they take those immunosuppressive drugs. Otherwise, their own immune system is going to recognize the renal graft as a foreign object and reject it, but that is their new kidney. So without these drugs, patients risk rejection of a kidney and a return to dialysis.

Now, Medicare, to be sure, will pay for that return to dialysis and another renal transplant—if they are lucky

enough to get one—but it will not pay for more than 36 months of immunosuppressive drug coverage. This is incredibly expensive for the Medicare system, but think of the toll on the lives of kidney patients and their families.

So the bill before us today will address the immunosuppressive drug issue directly by requiring Medicare to cover these drugs past 36 months for kidney patients who do not obtain other health coverage.

Look, a kidney transplant is a gift from one human to another. From the government's perspective, the transaction is an investment that allows the government to make that investment into a patient's future, and this policy allows us to protect that investment, so it is a policy that is good for the patient, to be sure. As a side benefit, it is a benefit to the taxpayer.

Madam Speaker, both the CMS Office of the Actuary and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at HHS have published reports on the benefits of extending Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs, which include financial savings for the Medicare program.

So after years, literally a decade, of wrestling with the policy, a light finally shone over the Congressional Budget Office and they confirmed what others have known all along, that this delivers savings to Medicare. The policy also aligns and builds on what the Trump administration has done with the kidney health initiatives, including the Advancing American Kidney Health executive order, which the President signed in July of 2019.

So this immunosuppressive drug policy has support from everyone—from the patients, to transplant surgeons, to patients' families, and it is something behind which the kidney coalition has coalesced for years. We would not be here today if it were not for the tireless work of that community and other cosponsors.

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank all of the many people, including the staffers on both of our committees, who have worked over the past decade, they have tuned and fine-tuned this policy to get it where it is today.

□ 1600

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I close, throughout the day, I am sure people observing have viewed us taking off and putting on our masks, et cetera. I

would like to acknowledge a very special person from Mayberry Village in East Hartford, Connecticut, who made this mask and several like these and has distributed them out of the kindness of her heart and concern and care. Her name is Margaret Grady Ramsey from Mayberry Village in East Hartford, Connecticut. I thank Peg for all her hard work.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I know that Dr. RUIZ has worked tirelessly on the BENES Act for many years. I thank him for his efforts. I also thank the Medicare beneficiary advocates, including the Medicare Rights Center and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, for their tireless work and support to find a solution to this longstanding problem.

The gentlewoman from Indiana has also played a key role in this as well, and I want to make sure we acknowledge her as well.

H.R. 2477, the BENES Act, provides significant long-term improvements to Medicare for millions of beneficiaries. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as more and more Americans reach Medicare age, we need to simplify the part B enrollment process and improve education and outreach to seniors. The commonsense reforms in this bipartisan BENES Act will protect seniors from unnecessary late enrollment penalties, gaps in coverage, and unexpected healthcare bills.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation that will simplify complicated Medicare enrollment rules.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2477, 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.

#### PROMOTING ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE ACT

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3703) to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3703

*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 Alzheimer's Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act".

#### SEC. 2. ADDRESSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(b) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(3) by striking "Not later than" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than";

(4) in paragraph (1)(B), as so redesignated—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting "including witnesses who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias" after "other legal issues"; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking "elder abuse cases," and inserting "elder abuse cases (including victims and witnesses who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias)"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) TRAINING MATERIALS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In creating or compiling replication guides and training materials under paragraph (1)(B), the Elder Justice Coordinator shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, State, local, and Tribal adult protective services, aging, social, and human services agencies, Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, and nationally recognized nonprofit associations with relevant expertise, as appropriate.

"(B) UPDATING.—The Elder Justice Coordinator shall—

(i) review the best practices identified and replication guides and training materials created or compiled under paragraph (1)(B) to determine if the replication guides or training materials require updating; and

(ii) perform any necessary updating of the replication guides or training materials."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply on and after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT ON OUTREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(c)(2) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(2) by striking "a report detailing" and inserting the following: "a report—

"(A) detailing"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) with respect to the report by the Attorney General, including a link to the publicly available best practices identified under subsection (b)(1)(B) and the replication guides and training materials created or compiled under such subsection."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the report under section 101(c)(2) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34

U.S.C. 21711(c)(2)) submitted during the second year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARPITA KURDEKAR, GIRISH KURDEKAR, AND VANDANA KURDEKAR

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 631) for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 631

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

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ARPITA KURDEKAR, GIRISH KURDEKAR, AND VANDANA KURDEKAR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, or Vandana Kurdekar enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ARPITA KURDEKAR, GIRISH KURDEKAR, AND VANDANA KURDEKAR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, or Vandana Kurdekar enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

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

Ms. BASS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARIA ISABEL BUESO BARRERA, ALBERTO BUESO MENDOZA, KARLA MARIA BARRERA DE BUESO, AND ANA LUCIA BUESO BARRERA

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4225) for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4225

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

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR MARIA ISABEL BUESO BARRERA, ALBERTO BUESO MENDOZA, AND KARLA MARIA BARRERA DE BUESO.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (d), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso may not be removed from the United States, denied admission to the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.**—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) **DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.**—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR MARIA ISABEL BUESO BARRERA, ALBERTO BUESO MENDOZA, AND KARLA MARIA BARRERA DE BUESO.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.**—If Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (d), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso may not be removed from the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.**—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate

fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.**—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) **DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.**—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

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

Ms. BASS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**VICTORIA GALINDO LOPEZ**

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 7146) for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7146

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

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR VICTORIA GALINDO LOPEZ.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Victoria Galindo Lopez shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.**—If Victoria Galindo Lopez enters the United States be-

fore the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Victoria Galindo Lopez may not be removed from the United States, denied admission to the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Victoria Galindo Lopez by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.**—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.**—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Victoria Galindo Lopez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) **DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.**—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Victoria Galindo Lopez shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR VICTORIA GALINDO LOPEZ.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Victoria Galindo Lopez shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.**—If Victoria Galindo Lopez enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Victoria Galindo Lopez may not be removed from the United States, denied admission to the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Victoria Galindo Lopez by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Victoria Galindo Lopez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Victoria Galindo Lopez shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

## SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

Ms. BASS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### MEDIAN EL-MOUSTRAH

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 7572) for the relief of Median El-Moustrah, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7572

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

## SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR MEDIAN EL-MOUSTRAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Median El-Moustrah shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Median El-Moustrah enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Median El-Moustrah may not be removed from the United States, denied admission to the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Median El-Moustrah by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Median El-Moustrah, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Median El-Moustrah shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

## SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR MEDIAN EL-MOUSTRAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Median El-Moustrah shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Median El-Moustrah enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Median El-Moustrah may not be removed from the United States, denied admission to the United States, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence in the United States by reason of any ground for removal or denial of admission that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Visa Office of the Department of State on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Median El-Moustrah by reason of any ground described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Median El-Moustrah, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(f) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Median El-Moustrah shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

## SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

Ms. BASS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### THE ONE STOP SHOP COMMUNITY REENTRY PROGRAM ACT OF 2020

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8161) to authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8161

*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 “The One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020”.

#### SEC. 2. COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General is authorized to carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of creating community reentry centers.

(b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each application for a grant under this section shall—

(1) demonstrate a plan to work with community leaders who interact with formerly incarcerated people and their families to—

(A) identify specific strategies and approaches to providing reentry services;

(B) develop a needs assessment tool to survey or conduct focus groups with community members in order to identify—

(i) the needs of individuals returning to the community after conviction or incarceration, and the barriers such individuals face; and

(ii) the needs of the families and communities to which such individuals are returning; and

(C) use the information gathered pursuant to subparagraph (B) to determine the reentry services to be provided by the community reentry center;

(2) identify the correctional institutions from which individuals who are released from incarceration are likely to reenter the community served by the community reentry center, and develop a plan, if feasible, to provide transportation for such released individuals to the community reentry center, to the individual’s residence, or to a location where the individual is ordered by a court to report;

(3) demonstrate a plan to provide accessible notice of the location of the reentry intake and coordination center and the services that it will provide (either directly or on a referral basis), including, where feasible, within and outside of correctional institutions identified under paragraph (1);

(4) demonstrate a plan to provide intake and reentry needs assessment that is trauma-informed and gender-responsive after an individual is released from a correctional institution, or, in the case of an individual who is convicted of an offense and not sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after such conviction, and where feasible, before release, to ensure that the individuals served by the center are referred to appropriate reentry services based on the individual’s needs immediately upon release from a correctional institution or after conviction, and continuously thereafter as needed;

(5) demonstrate a plan to provide the reentry services identified in paragraph (1)(C);

(6) demonstrate a plan to continue to provide services (including through referral) for individuals served by the center who move to a different geographic area to ensure appropriate case management, case planning, and access to continuous or new services, where necessary, and based on consistent reevaluation of needs; and

(7) identify specific methods that the community reentry center will employ to achieve performance objectives among the individuals served by the center, including—

(A) increased access to and participation in reentry services;

(B) reduction in recidivism rates;

(C) increased numbers of individuals obtaining and retaining employment;

(D) increased enrollment in and degrees earned from educational programs, including high school, GED, and institutions of higher education;

(E) increased numbers of individuals obtaining and maintaining housing; and

(F) increased self-reports of successful community living, including stability of living situation and positive family relationships.

(c) PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek to employ individuals who have been convicted of an offense, or served a term of imprisonment and have completed any court-ordered supervision, or that, to the extent allowable by law, employ such formerly incarcerated individuals in positions of responsibility.

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

(1) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization with expertise in analyzing data related to reentry services and recidivism to monitor and evaluate each recipient of a grant and each community reentry center receiving funds under this section on an ongoing basis.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The nonprofit organization described in paragraph (1) shall provide administrative support to assist recipients of grants authorized by this Act to comply with the conditions associated with the receipt of funding from the Department of Justice.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which grants are initially made under this section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the program, which shall include—

(A) the number of grants made, the number of eligible entities receiving such grants, and the amount of funding distributed to each eligible entity pursuant to this section;

(B) the location of each eligible entity receiving such a grant, and the population served by the community reentry center;

(C) the number of persons who have participated in reentry services offered by a community reentry center, disaggregated by type of services, and success rates of participants in each service to the extent possible;

(D) the number of persons who have participated in reentry services for which they received a referral from a community reentry center, disaggregated by type of services, and success rates of participants in each service;

(E) recidivism rates within the population served by each community reentry center, both before and after receiving a grant under this section;

(F) the numbers of individuals obtaining and retaining employment within the population served by each community reentry center, both before and after receiving a grant under this section; and

(G) the number of individuals obtaining and maintaining housing within the population served by each community reentry center, both before and after receiving a grant under this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible entity” means a community-based nonprofit organization that—

(A) has expertise in the provision of reentry services; and

(B) is located in a geographic area that has disproportionately high numbers of residents, when compared to the local community, who—

(i) have been arrested;

(ii) have been convicted of a criminal offense; and

(iii) return to such geographic area after incarceration.

(2) The term “community reentry center” means a center that—

(A) offers intake, reentry needs assessments, case management, and case planning for reentry services for individuals returning to the community after conviction or incarceration;

(B) provides the reentry services identified under subsection (b)(1)(C) at a single location; and

(C) provides referrals to appropriate service providers based on the assessment of needs of the individuals.

(3) The term “reentry services” means comprehensive and holistic services that improve outcomes for individuals returning to the community after conviction or incarceration, and may include—

(A) seeking and maintaining employment, including through assistance with drafting resumes, establishing emails accounts, locating job solicitations, submitting of job applications, and preparing for interviews;

(B) placement in job placement programs that partner with private employers;

(C) obtaining free and low-cost job skills classes, including computer skills, technical skills, vocational skills, and any other job-related skills;

(D) locating and maintaining housing, which may include counseling on public housing opportunities, assisting with applications for public housing benefits, locating and securing temporary or long-term shelter, and applying for home energy and utility assistance programs;

(E) obtaining identification cards and driver’s licenses;

(F) registering to vote, and applying for voting rights to be restored, where permitted by law;

(G) applying for or accessing GED courses;

(H) applying for loans for and admission to institutions of higher education;

(I) financial counseling;

(J) legal assistance or referrals for record expungement, forfeiture of property or assets, family law and custody matters, legal aid services (including other civil legal aid services), and relevant civil matters including housing and other issues;

(K) retrieving property or funds retained by the arresting agency or facility of incarceration, or retrieving property or funds obtained while incarcerated;

(L) transportation, including through provision of transit fare;

(M) familial counseling;

(N) problem-solving, in coordination with counsel where necessary, any difficulties in compliance with court-ordered supervision requirements, including restrictions on living with certain family members, contact with certain friends, bond requirements, location and residency restrictions, electronic monitoring compliance, court-ordered substance abuse, and other court-ordered requirements;

(O) communication needs, including providing a mobile phone, mobile phone service or access, or internet access;

(P) applying for State or Federal government benefits, where eligible, and assisting in locating free or reduced cost food and sustenance benefits;

(Q) life skills assistance;

(R) mentorship;

(S) medical and mental health services, and cognitive-behavioral programming;

(T) substance abuse treatment;

(U) reactivation, application for, and maintenance of professional or other licenses; and

(V) providing case management services, in connection with court-orders terms of release, or

other local publicly supported social work case management.

(4) The term “community leader” means an individual who serves the community in a leadership role, including—

- (A) a school official;
- (B) a faith leader;
- (C) a social service provider;
- (D) a member of a neighborhood association;
- (E) a public safety representative;
- (F) an employee of an organization that provides reentry services;
- (G) a member of a civic or volunteer group related to the provision of reentry services;
- (H) a health care professional; or
- (I) an employee of a State, local, or tribal government agency with expertise in the provision of reentry services.

(5) The term “success rate” means the rate of recidivism (as measured by a subsequent conviction or return to prison), job placement, permanent housing placement, or completion of certification, trade, or other education program.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

(2) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that grants awarded under this section are equitably distributed among the geographical regions and between urban and rural populations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the objective of reducing recidivism.

**SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR REENTRY SERVICES ASSISTANCE HOTLINES.**

(a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General is authorized to make grants to States and units of local government to operate reentry services assistance hotlines that are toll-free and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(2) **GRANT PERIOD.**—A grant made under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

(b) **HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.**—A grant recipient shall ensure, with respect to a hotline funded by a grant under subsection (a), that—

(1) the hotline directs individuals to local reentry services (as such term is defined in section 2(e));

(2) any personally identifiable information that an individual provides to an agency of the State through the hotline is not directly or indirectly disclosed, without the consent of the individual, to any other agency or entity, or person;

(3) the staff members who operate the hotline are trained to be knowledgeable about—

(A) applicable Federal, State, and local reentry services; and

(B) the unique barriers to successful reentry into the community after a person has been convicted or incarcerated;

(4) the hotline is accessible to—

(A) individuals with limited English proficiency, where appropriate; and

(B) individuals with disabilities;

(5) the hotline has the capability to engage with individuals using text messages.

(c) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The Attorney General shall issue guidance to grant recipients on best practices for implementing the requirements of subsection (b).

(d) **PREFERENCE.**—The Attorney General shall give preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek to employ individuals to operate the hotline who have been convicted of an offense, or have served a term of imprisonment and have completed any court-ordered supervision.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Ms. BASS. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be the author of H.R. 8161, The One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020, and I urge my colleagues to support this important reentry measure and pass this bipartisan bill today.

I would like to take a moment to give a special thanks to Representative GUY RESCHENTHALER for his support.

H.R. 8161 will provide much-needed resources to especially communities with a disproportionate number of returning citizens. The idea of the bill is to provide grants to establish a centralized process to assist individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. It acts as a bridge by providing guidance to those who are leaving prison and jails on how to become productive members of their communities.

The concept of the bill is that funding would be provided to communities and neighborhoods to establish programs where people who are formerly incarcerated can run the program to essentially be a hand-holding bridge for people who are coming out of facilities to help them reintegrate into the community.

Many things that we might take for granted, such as getting your ID, getting a driver's license, paying your back child support, learning how to use transportation or the latest technology are things that can lead to recidivism for people if they are not able to reintegrate.

If you don't have a driver's license and you come from communities like mine in Los Angeles, without a car, it is virtually impossible to have a job that would allow you to support yourself.

Establishing a one-stop center where formerly incarcerated people are involved in every aspect of the management and running of the center will allow people to be reintegrated.

This Congress, in a series of hearings, the Judiciary Committee heard the challenges faced by people who are recently released. Sadly, these stories have only gotten worse over the years because, as we have incarcerated more people, we have also passed laws that essentially do not allow them to function in the legal economy, and we shouldn't be surprised when people recidivate.

For example, in some prisons, we have training programs. In California, we had a training program to teach

people who were incarcerated how to be barbers, but then we passed laws that said we wouldn't allow formerly incarcerated people to get a barber's license. So that type of reintegration bridge is what this bill addressed.

As we have passed policies that lead formerly incarcerated people outside of the legal economy, in these communities where there is a disproportionate number, you actually can see an increase in crime rate, because people will do whatever is needed to survive, and many times that means going back to illegal activity.

Each year, over 650,000 people are released from custody. Finding jobs, job training, housing, and placement, or even finding a hot meal can be challenging. For many, these barriers seem insurmountable. This is especially true for individuals who are returning to their communities and might have substance abuse, mental health disorders, or educational challenges.

We already know that many people who are incarcerated do not have a high school diploma. So a one-stop community center can help them get the resources and the training that they need so that they can become productive citizens.

During our hearings, we heard great examples of community leaders who are doing this work with minimal resources. Susan Burton, for example, the founder of A New Way of Life in Los Angeles, transports women as soon as they are released and provides them a safe place to live.

Criminal justice advocates Andrea James, Conan Harris, and Big John, from Los Angeles, have testified before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. They highlighted the importance of starting reentry services on the very first day someone enters into custody.

H.R. 8161 transforms obstacles into bridges. That is why having all reentry services in one place is so critical. Trained staff and peer mentors can guide returning individuals through the process of finding a safe place to sleep, apply for benefits, addressing family reunification, and starting the process of gaining employment.

Importantly, one-stop centers will be led by and employ formerly incarcerated individuals who can act as mentors. They can provide direct services to recently released individuals. This will give them the wherewithal they need to meet the challenges before them.

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H.R. 8161 provides support for smaller or rural communities that are not large enough to support a large one-stop operation. So it authorizes the Department of Justice to establish a 24/7 reentry service assistance hotline to direct recently released individuals to appropriate reentry services in their localities.

It is important to remember that the vast majority of the 2.3 million people

who are currently in custody will be released. Without the right types of support, they are highly likely to recidivate. No reentering person, regardless of where they live, should be left wondering how to establish their life and find gainful employment.

Our bipartisan bill provides communities with desperately needed resources to assist returning citizens in their efforts to successfully rejoin their communities. Between the one-stop center and the 24/7 hotline, Congress is again providing leadership on reentry issues and, in turn, promoting public safety.

This is a bipartisan effort, and again, I want to thank my colleagues for their cosponsorship and for working with me on this issue.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, successful prisoner reentry into society is critical to reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and saving taxpayer dollars.

We have seen successful criminal justice reform programs, including reentry programs, work in both Republican- and Democratic-led States, including North Dakota. Successful reentry programs often utilize community-based groups like F5 in my home State.

Likewise, President Trump has been a leader in criminal justice reform. He and his administration have signed bipartisan legislation, such as the First Step Act, to make our Federal criminal justice system fair.

The First Step Act reauthorized programs that support State, local, and Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and to help people returning to society from incarceration.

H.R. 8161, the One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020, will build on the administration's strong criminal justice reform initiatives. This bill will provide grants for the purpose of creating a unified location for reentry services in the communities that serve former prisoners. These facilities will include job training, counseling, substance abuse treatment, education, and medical services, among others.

All of the data suggests that the most vulnerable time for someone being released from incarceration is within the first 30 days after release. I have seen this frustration firsthand as clients and offenders encounter unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles when trying to rebuild their lives. They must obtain housing, find a job, adhere to probation requirements, among many other tasks. That struggle is especially difficult when the individual suffers from substance abuse or, as Congresswoman BASS suggested, lacks even a high school education.

These one-stop centers will help break the cycle of addiction and recidivism. This bill complements the recidivism reduction programs funded by the Second Chance Act and reauthorized by President Trump.

I am pleased our colleagues recognize the administration's criminal justice successes and the bipartisan effort on these bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, for the roughly 10 million people who, each year, reenter communities from jail or prison, the consequences of a criminal sentence can last a lifetime, creating barriers to accessing safe housing, employment, and even something as basic as a government ID.

As the mayor of Providence, I assembled a reentry council to bring together community leaders, including religious leaders, employers, and housing professionals, to help people returning to their communities with the goal of giving people a chance to fully reenter society after they have completed their sentence.

During my time as mayor, I saw how providing community-based reentry services helps to ensure that justice-involved individuals have the support they need for smooth transition back into society.

When formerly incarcerated people have access to their basic needs being met, like food assistance and employment opportunities, it can significantly reduce the likelihood they will commit a new offense and, as a result, make our communities safer. It gives returning citizens the ability to provide for themselves, for their families, and to be productive members of their communities.

That is why I am proud to support H.R. 8161, the One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act, which provides 5-year grants to community-based organizations and other eligible entities to create community reentry centers.

The One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act incentivizes community-based solutions to overcoming barriers to housing, education, employment, and healthcare. It seeks to end the revolving door of recidivism. It promotes healing by encouraging treatment and family counseling. It helps people navigate life after prison and successfully reenter their communities. It makes our communities safer and gives people a fair shot at a second chance, a chance at redemption, and a chance at success.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman BASS for her extraordinary leadership on H.R. 8161, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this excellent legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity to say this is a great

bill and there are great people in government at the State, Federal, and local level who really do care and help to try and do these things, and we have come a long way in the last 5 to 10 years on a lot of these issues.

But I think it is really important to recognize that, oftentimes, the best people in organizations to help people reenter into society are often former felons themselves who have gone through these processes and have started community-based organizations and have continued to work with new people coming out of prison.

While we have to treat criminal justice and we have to treat serious offenses in the manner that is deserving of what they are, we also believe in rehabilitation; and what we do with that, particularly more than anything else, is a return on investment because, as we can get these people through this process and keep them out of the revolving door that can sometimes occur in the criminal justice system, we save people's lives, we save families, and we actually save taxpayer money.

This is a great bill, and I appreciate everybody's work on it.

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

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, the overwhelming majority of incarcerated individuals are released from jail or prison and returned to their communities. This bill would take meaningful steps to make the reentry process more efficient and, ultimately, more successful.

Along with the 24/7 reentry hotline, community-funded reentry programs, like the services included in this bill, will reduce recidivism and improve overall community safety. These individuals will be able to successfully rejoin and contribute to their families and communities. That is why this bill is so important.

In our Nation, we used to believe that, if you committed a crime and you served your time in prison, you were able to reenter society. This bill is a return to that time period.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. I thank my colleague, Representative ARMSTRONG, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8161, the "One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020," which creates a new grant program that will provide money to States, Tribes, local governments, and community-based nonprofits to create one-stop reentry centers to assist people who were recently released from jail or prison.

The bill would also create a grant program for a toll-free hotline for returning individuals to access reentry services.

As one who has worked on community reentry and recidivism reduction for most of tenure on this Committee, I am proud to join Crime Subcommittee Chair Karen Bass (D-CA) as a cosponsor of this legislation.

There are currently over 2.1 million people incarcerated in local, state, and federal correctional facilities, a number that represents a

more than 500 percent increase in the incarcerated population over the last 40 years.

Over 95 percent of people currently incarcerated will eventually be released back to their communities.

In fact, approximately 600,000 people are released from custody every year and at the end of 2016, an estimated 4.5 million adults were under community supervision, which includes probation or parole.

Reentry services are essential for this population, to ensure that these individuals transition smoothly out of jail and prison and to keep recidivism to a minimum.

The recidivism rates for individuals leaving prisons remain high, and a large number of those released from prison will ultimately find themselves back in the criminal legal system.

A 2018 study found that 83 percent of people released from prisons in 2005 were arrested at least once during the nine years following their release, and of those released from state prisons, 44 percent were arrested at least once in the year immediately following their release.

Lack of access to resources upon release leads to a cycle of rearrest and reincarceration that some scholars call the “revolving door” to prison.

This cycle of recidivism has tremendous financial consequences—the United States spends over \$80 billion dollars a year on incarceration—not to mention the human toll it takes on families and communities.

The cycle of release, rearrest, and reincarceration, also costs state and local communities over \$100 million in policing and judicial administration costs.

While some returning individuals have a release plan, many people are released from custody with only their personal property, little money, and no place to go.

The result of not having a reentry plan can be ruinous.

In the last decade, policymakers have begun to measure the effects of reentry on returning individuals, their families, and their communities.

Studies show that most people enter the prison system with low levels of education, limited work experience, substance abuse issues, and mental health infirmities, and that these same issues are still present when a person is released from prison.

Without appropriate reentry services to assist them, many returning citizens find themselves back in the criminal justice system.

H.R. 8161 provides grants to community-based organizations for the creation of one-stop reentry centers, which would combine the provision of various reentry services in one location, thus making it easier for returning citizens to access them.

The one-stop shop model that this legislation promotes would aim to provide complete reentry services to address the critical elements of the reentry process that promote long-term reentry success.

The one-stop centers would include support personnel, who themselves are formerly incarcerated individuals, to provide direct support for recently released individuals.

In addition, where reentry services may not logistically be able to be placed in a single geographic location, this legislation authorizes the Attorney General to fund States and local jurisdictions to establish 24/7 reentry service assistance hotlines that direct recently re-

leased individuals to appropriate reentry resources.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 8161, the “One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8161, 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.

#### CRIMINAL ANTITRUST ANTI-RETALIATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2258) to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2258

*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 “Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2019”.

##### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO ACPERA.

The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-237; 15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended by inserting after section 215 the following:

##### “SEC. 216. ANTI-RETALIATION PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS.

“(a) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, AND AGENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No employer may discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against a covered individual in the terms and conditions of employment of the covered individual because of any lawful act done by the covered individual—

“(A) to provide or cause to be provided to the Federal Government or a person with supervisory authority over the covered individual (or such other person working for the employer who has the authority to investigate, discover, or terminate misconduct) information relating to—

“(i) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of, the antitrust laws; or

“(ii) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of, another criminal law committed in conjunction with a potential violation of the antitrust laws or in conjunction with an investigation by the Department of Justice of a potential violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(B) to cause to be filed, testify in, participate in, or otherwise assist a Federal Government investigation or a Federal Government proceeding filed or about to be filed (with any knowledge of the employer) relating to—

“(i) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of, the antitrust laws; or

“(ii) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably be-

lieves to be a violation of, another criminal law committed in conjunction with a potential violation of the antitrust laws or in conjunction with an investigation by the Department of Justice of a potential violation of the antitrust laws.

“(2) LIMITATION ON PROTECTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any covered individual if—

“(A) the covered individual planned and initiated a violation or attempted violation of the antitrust laws;

“(B) the covered individual planned and initiated a violation or attempted violation of another criminal law in conjunction with a violation or attempted violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(C) the covered individual planned and initiated an obstruction or attempted obstruction of an investigation by the Department of Justice of a violation of the antitrust laws.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) ANTITRUST LAWS.—The term ‘antitrust laws’ means section 1 or 3 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 and 3).

“(B) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘covered individual’ means an employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of an employer.

“(C) EMPLOYER.—The term ‘employer’ means a person, or any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of such person.

“(D) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Federal Government’ means—

“(i) a Federal regulatory or law enforcement agency; or

“(ii) any Member of Congress or committee of Congress.

“(E) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ has the same meaning as in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12(a)).

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The term ‘violation’, with respect to the antitrust laws, shall not be construed to include a civil violation of any law that is not also a criminal violation.

“(b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual who alleges discharge or other discrimination by any employer in violation of subsection (a) may seek relief under subsection (c) by—

“(A) filing a complaint with the Secretary of Labor; or

“(B) if the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 180 days of the filing of the complaint and there is no showing that such delay is due to the bad faith of the claimant, bringing an action at law or equity for de novo review in the appropriate district court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction over such an action without regard to the amount in controversy.

“(2) PROCEDURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A complaint filed with the Secretary of Labor under paragraph (1)(A) shall be governed under the rules and procedures set forth in section 42121(b) of title 49, United States Code.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Notification made under section 42121(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made to any individual named in the complaint and to the employer.

“(C) BURDENS OF PROOF.—An action brought under paragraph (1)(B) shall be governed by the legal burdens of proof set forth in section 42121(b) of title 49, United States Code.

“(D) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—A complaint under paragraph (1)(A) shall be filed with the Secretary of Labor not later than 180 days after the date on which the violation occurs.

“(E) CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.—If a person fails to comply with an order or preliminary

order issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 42121(b) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Labor or the person on whose behalf the order was issued may bring a civil action to enforce the order in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the violation occurred.

“(C) REMEDIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual prevailing in any action under subsection (b)(1) shall be entitled to all relief necessary to make the covered individual whole.

“(2) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES.—Relief for any action under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) reinstatement with the same seniority status that the covered individual would have had, but for the discrimination;

“(B) the amount of back pay, with interest; and

“(C) compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of the discrimination including litigation costs, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorney’s fees.

“(d) RIGHTS RETAINED BY WHISTLEBLOWERS.—Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any covered individual under any Federal or State law, or under any collective bargaining agreement.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act, legislation that I introduced with Chairman NADLER, Chairman CICILLINE, and Ranking Member SENSENBRENNER that would extend whistleblower protections to private-sector employees who report criminal antitrust violations to the Federal Government.

Just by way of background, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act is based on recommendations from a 2011 Government Accountability Office report. The legislation will protect private-sector employees for simply doing the right thing and ensure that those who retaliate against whistleblowers are held accountable.

Under the legislation, an employee who believes that he or she is a victim of retaliation can file a complaint with the Secretary of Labor, and it allows for that employee to be reinstated to their former position if the Secretary finds in his or her favor.

Mr. Speaker, antitrust violations often result in higher prices, less innovation, and fundamentally less choice.

Private-sector employees are integral in maintaining the integrity of our antitrust laws, without whom violations such as price and wage fixing would go unreported.

Since our Nation’s founding, our country has had a rich tradition of working to protect whistleblowers. Today, more than ever, honoring that history is tremendously important. No employee should fear for their job or face retaliation for exposing illegal, anticompetitive behavior, such as price fixing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank Chairman NADLER, Chairman CICILLINE, and the majority leader for bringing this bill to the House floor.

I also want to thank Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LEAHY for spearheading this effort in the Senate and for working so persistently to get it passed in that Chamber.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2258, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act, like its House companion, H.R. 8226, protects whistleblowers who help the Federal Government investigate and prosecute criminal violations of antitrust laws.

When workers give information to law enforcement, cooperate with criminal investigations, or testify about an employer’s crimes, their employer may retaliate. Retaliation can take many forms, such as firing, demotion, suspension, or other types of retaliatory discrimination. Whatever its form, retaliation is wrong.

Workers should not be punished when they help the authorities address criminal antitrust violations, violations that ultimately harm American consumers. If this retaliation goes unaddressed, it can have damaging long-term effects. For one thing, unaddressed retaliation can suppress future whistleblowers who might otherwise step forward to shine a light on any wrongdoing.

When whistleblowers are scared to speak out, law enforcement may never learn of the criminal antitrust violations in the first place. Likewise, without the help from whistleblowers during investigations, law enforcement agencies may be unable to successfully prosecute wrongdoers.

S. 2258 addresses these policy concerns by prohibiting retaliatory discrimination against whistleblowers who speak out against criminal antitrust violations.

This bill also gives whistleblowers recourse if their employers do choose to retaliate. Under the bill, a whistleblower can file a complaint through a process the Department of Labor oversees and, in limited circumstances, seek relief by suing in Federal court.

While establishing whistleblower protections, S. 2258 also puts important guardrails in place to ensure that bad actors do not abuse this law. The bill

denies whistleblower protections to people who instigate the violation of criminal antitrust laws or obstruct an investigation. Instead, the bill will protect workers who are acting in good faith.

Finally, I should note that our colleague, Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, a cosponsor of the House companion bill, has worked throughout his career to protect whistleblowers from retaliation. He has described the general policy animating this bill and highlighted the importance of whistleblowers when he said that whistleblowers help maintain the integrity of our laws. Mr. SENSENBRENNER is correct.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, how much do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The gentleman from Colorado has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), the chairman of the Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee.

□ 1630

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2258, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act, which was introduced in the House by Congressman NEGUSE, that is H.R. 8226, a piece of legislation that he relentlessly championed and it finally is before us for final passage.

This important legislation protects whistleblowers who report criminal misconduct under the antitrust laws.

As my good friend just mentioned, I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of JIM SENSENBRENNER, who will be retiring from Congress, but who has made protection of whistleblowers an important part of his work here, and we will miss him on the Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee.

This important bill provides employees with a mechanism for reporting retaliation to the Department of Labor. Whistleblowers who report on criminal antitrust conduct and are retaliated against, such as through wrongful discharge, demotion, or harassment will have a path for reinstatement, be able to be compensated for harms that they suffer and reimbursed for litigation expenses for meritorious claims.

By extending these protections to employees who report criminal violations of antitrust laws to the Federal Government, this important measure will encourage whistleblowers to come forward to report extreme criminal violations of the antitrust laws, such as price and wage fixing, which are the supreme evil of antitrust.

Moreover, this legislation brings the criminal antitrust laws in line with other important laws, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which protects whistleblowers who report corporate wrongdoing.

No worker in America should fear for their job or economic livelihood for exposing corporations that engage in criminal activity, and exposing this misconduct is critical for antitrust enforcement purposes.

I want to end where I began by applauding Congressman NEGUSE, the vice chair of the House Judiciary Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee, a really valued and deeply respected member of the subcommittee, for his extraordinary leadership on this vital legislation, which has already been passed unanimously by the Senate.

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

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

I thank the chairman of the Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee, Mr. CICILLINE, for his leadership, his thoughtfulness, and for making consumer protection the central focus of his work and the Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee's work over this past Congress.

I also thank Mr. ARMSTRONG, my colleague on the other side of the aisle.

I would lend my voice, as well, to those who have rightfully praised the work of Mr. SENSENBRENNER who, for many years in the United States Congress, has served with distinction representing the people of Wisconsin. And I know that this bill was certainly important to him, and we appreciate his efforts on that front.

Finally, I would close with this: It can be lost on the American public as we talk about things like price fixing and the antitrust laws that are currently on the books how that connects to the everyday life of Americans. Fundamentally, this bill is about consumer protection. It is about protecting the public.

Before I came to Congress, I served several years in the cabinet of then-Governor John Hickenlooper, leading our State's Consumer Protection Agency, the Department of Regulatory Agencies' 600-person department with a \$100 million budget, civil servants from across our State working hard each and every day to protect the consuming public and the people of the State of Colorado, the same work that folks do at the FTC and the Department of Justice in the Antitrust Division each and every day.

This is another tool that can be used in the toolbox of regulators here in Washington as we work to make consumer protection a priority and ultimately partner with those in the private sector who wish to report abusive and anticompetitive conduct that might be happening in the broader marketplace.

Again, I am thankful to the sponsors of this bill in the Senate, to the leadership in the House for bringing this bill forward to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge a "yes" vote on the legislation before the

House, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2258.

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.

#### PUERTO RICO RECOVERY ACCURACY IN DISCLOSURES ACT OF 2020

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 683) to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA"), as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 683

*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 "Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2020" or "PRRADA".

#### SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE BY PROFESSIONAL PERSONS SEEKING APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 316 OR 317 OF PROMESA.

##### (a) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a voluntary case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), no attorney, accountant, appraiser, auctioneer, agent, consultant, or other professional person may be compensated under section 316 or 317 of that Act (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) unless prior to making a request for compensation, the professional person has submitted a verified statement conforming to the disclosure requirements of rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure setting forth the connection of the professional person with—

(A) the debtor;

(B) any creditor;

(C) any other party in interest, including any attorney or accountant;

(D) the Financial Oversight and Management Board established in accordance with section 101 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2121); and

(E) any person employed by the Oversight Board described in subparagraph (D).

(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—A professional person that submits a statement under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) supplement the statement with any additional relevant information that becomes known to the person; and

(B) file annually a notice confirming the accuracy of the statement.

##### (b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trustee shall review each verified statement submitted pursuant to subsection (a) and may file with the court comments on such verified statements before the professionals filing such statements seek compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177).

(2) OBJECTION.—The United States Trustee may object to compensation applications

filed under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) that fail to satisfy the requirements of subsection (e).

(3) RIGHT TO BE HEARD.—Each person described in section 1109 of title 11, United States Code, may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this section.

(c) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of all cases under this section.

##### (d) RETROACTIVITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a court has entered an order approving compensation under a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), each professional person subject to the order shall file a verified statement in accordance with subsection (a) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NO DELAY.—A court may not delay any proceeding in connection with a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164) pending the filing of a verified statement under paragraph (1).

##### (e) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a voluntary case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), in connection with the review and approval of professional compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177), the court may deny allowance of compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses, accruing after the date of the enactment of this Act of a professional person if the professional person—

(A) has failed to file statements of connections required by subsection (a) or has filed inadequate statements of connections;

(B) except as provided in paragraph (3), is on or after the date of enactment of this Act not a disinterested person, as defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code; or

(C) except as provided in paragraph (3), represents, or holds an interest adverse to, the interest of the estate with respect to the matter on which such professional person is employed.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under paragraph (1), the court may take into consideration whether the services and expenses are in the best interests of creditors and the estate.

(3) COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.—An attorney or accountant described in section 1103(b) of title 11, United States Code, shall be deemed to have violated paragraph (1) if the attorney or accountant violates section 1103(b) of title 11, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 683, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act, or PRRADA, is bipartisan legislation that would promote greater transparency and integrity with respect to

the ongoing financial reorganization of Puerto Rico.

In response to dire fiscal issues facing Puerto Rico at the time, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA, in 2016.

That legislation established the Financial Oversight and Management Board with control over Puerto Rico's budget, laws, financial plans, and regulations and the authority to retain professionals to assist the board in executing its responsibilities.

Although largely patterned on Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, PROMESA did not incorporate all facets of Chapter 11 and other relevant provisions of the code.

Importantly, this includes the code's mandatory disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest that professional persons seeking to be retained in a bankruptcy case must make to the court prior to their retention.

This bill would close that loophole by conditioning the compensation of professional persons retained under PROMESA upon certain disclosures similar to those required under the Bankruptcy Code.

Additionally, the bill would require the United States trustee to review these disclosures and submit comments in response to the Court, and also authorizes the United States trustee to object to compensation requested by professionals.

And finally, H.R. 683 would allow courts to deny the compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses if the professional person did not comply with the disclosure requirement, was not a disinterested person, or represented or held an interest adverse to the bankruptcy estate.

I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for her leadership in championing this bill and for her relentless dedication to ensuring that the people of Puerto Rico receive the fair, efficient, and transparent restructuring process they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which was favorably reported out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2016, Puerto Rico faced serious and increasing financial pressure brought on by significant debt and related obligations.

In response to that financial crisis, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act of 2016.

This 2016 law set up a bankruptcy mechanism for Puerto Rico to address its obligations.

Like other existing bankruptcy laws, the 2016 law enables bankruptcy professionals, such as lawyers and consultants, to apply for payment for their services subject to court approval.

But the 2016 law lacked certain disclosure requirements for professionals, even though these requirements apply to professionals in any other bankruptcy case.

That gap in the law created the potential for unaddressed conflicts of interest for professionals involved in Puerto Rico's bankruptcy process.

To address this concern, H.R. 683 establishes disclosure requirements for accountants, lawyers, and other bankruptcy professionals working on matters related to Puerto Rico's bankruptcy.

The additional disclosure requirements in H.R. 683 increase the likelihood that any conflicts of interest will be caught and timely addressed before compensation decisions are made.

Taken as a whole, this added level of transparency will benefit important interests, such as those of the creditors and taxpayers and ultimately of Puerto Rico itself.

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

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 683, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act.

Representative VELÁZQUEZ and myself have proposed this initiative since the last Congress, and I am thankful that on this occasion we have been able to count on the original cosponsorship of Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP, as well as many other cosponsors, both Republicans and Democrats.

This bill is an important component in ensuring that the restructuring process under PROMESA looks out for Puerto Rico's best interests.

This legislation requires any counsel and professional personnel that the Financial Oversight and Management Board may hire to work on a title III case for the restructuring of Puerto Rico's debt, to submit verified disclosures of their connections with the debtor, creditors, or persons employed by the board prior to being compensated.

This provision will impose on the decisions about the hiring of personnel for the restructuring the same requirements as are imposed on such personnel under the existing bankruptcy rules.

Our intention is not to exclude anyone's expertise and knowledge of Puerto Rico's fiscal transactions from being resources in the restructuring process. But I think it is essential that any such connection be clear and known, so that such persons' qualifications and the role they are going to play can be better evaluated. And that has happened in the past. So I think the result of this legislation will clarify that and

will not allow that to happen again. Conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest can be best avoided if there is accountability and transparency.

This bill would require that such personnel must disclose in detail their participation and involvement with any entity involved in the issuance of Puerto Rico debt and in any claims involving Puerto Rico's debt, informing the identity of each.

Anyone who is serving on the board or working to inform its decisions—and I may say the President today announced three more new members to the Oversight Board, so I think the time of approving this bill is just accurate—or representing it before the title III court, must have the trust of all parties that they are committed to defending the interests of the people of Puerto Rico to the best of their ability in accordance with the law and justice.

A lack of transparency in these personnel decisions creates a lack of confidence and distrust. Learning that someone used to be involved in the businesses of one of the parties in the case only after they are named and working on that case does not create an assurance of their commitment to the best interests of Puerto Rico or the managing of their debt.

That is the reason everyone's ultimate goal must be to reach out and reach the day that we no longer need the provisions of PROMESA or the Fiscal Oversight Board in Puerto Rico, and we can dedicate ourselves to rebuild and grow our economy.

Until that happens, we must demand that the instruments created by PROMESA be accountable and transparent in their processes. Nothing less should be acceptable, and that is the reason I call upon my colleagues to pass H.R. 683.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have said it any better, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 683 closes a loophole under current law by establishing disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest in the Bankruptcy Code process under PROMESA. In doing so this legislation promotes transparency and accountability in the Puerto Rico restructuring process.

I, again, thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the author of this bill, for her leadership on this issue, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

Before closing, since this will likely be the final bill within this subcommittee's jurisdiction considered on the floor of this Congress, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding career of the ranking member of the subcommittee and my friend, Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER.

As part of his distinguished career, he has left an indelible mark on the Judiciary Committee, on Congress, and on our country.

We recently celebrated those contributions in a ceremony held by the committee.

Congressman SENSENBRENNER has never hesitated to work across party lines in service of hardworking Americans. As the incoming chairman of the subcommittee, I looked to him for leadership in the beginning of the Congress. Since then, he has been a tremendous source of advice and wisdom over the past 2 years.

It has been a real pleasure working with him this Congress, and I thank him for his incredible service and wish him well in his retirement.

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

□ 1645

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 683, The Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2019. I am thankful for my friends, Chairman JERROLD NADLER, the Members serving on the Judiciary committee, and the staff who helped bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act—or PROMESA—in 2016 to set up an orderly bankruptcy process to restructure its debt, stimulate economic development, and put the Island on a path to financial recovery.

The bill before the House's consideration today, will close a loophole in the Island's debt restructuring process, improve transparency, and restore confidence in the island's future.

While we can have differing opinions on how effectively the Oversight Board is carrying out its mission, one thing should be clear—the island's residents should be entitled to the same rights and protections as any debtor on the mainland.

The trust the American people have placed in our bankruptcy resolution system is based on a fair, efficient, and transparent process. Transparency, as required by section 327 of Title 11 of the United States Code and Rule 2014 of Federal Bankruptcy procedure, applies to every corporate bankruptcy and ensures any conflicts of interest—or even the perception of such conflict—between those working on the bankruptcy and the debtor are disclosed. However, PROMESA does not have a similar requirement.

The bill we are bringing to the floor today addresses this oversight and applies a robust disclosure requirement to all PROMESA Title III proceedings, eliminating the double standard that the People of Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans should be confident that the Board's bankruptcy advisors do not have their “thumb on the scale” to favor certain debts where they have a selfinterest. This bipartisan bill ensures integrity of the PROMESA process.

The need for PRRADA was articulated in February 2019, when a board-appointed law firm investigated potential conflicts in Puerto Rico's bank-

ruptcy in response to reports by the press about conflicts of interests by one of the Board's consultants. One of the main recommendations in the “Luskin Report” was that vendors should disclose affiliate relationships. The report found that trading in Puerto Rico public debt is particularly problematic, as it gives rise to the appearance of conflict. This is exactly what PRRADA would require vendors to do—and why we need to pass this comprehensive piece of legislation.

In closing, PRRADA will guarantee to the people of Puerto Rico the same transparency and disclosure practices required by law in U.S. mainland bankruptcies. In the interest of fairness for Puerto Rico's people and for impartiality in restructuring—and thereby securing—Puerto Rico's future, we must pass H.R. 683 and close this loophole.

Once more, I would like to thank Chairman NADLER, the staff and the bipartisan cosponsors of this bill. I strongly encourage all members to vote “Yes” on this critical piece of legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 683, the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2019” or “PRRADA Act,” which conditions compensation of professional persons retained under the congressionally passed “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act” (“PROMESA”) upon the applicant providing certain disclosures similar to those required under Bankruptcy Code section 327.

In response to dire fiscal issues facing Puerto Rico at the time, Congress passed Pub. L. 114–187, the “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act” or “PROMESA” in 2016, legislation I strongly supported and cosponsored.

The Act established the Financial Oversight and Management Board (Board), a fiscal control board comprised of seven members that would have control over Puerto Rico's budget, laws, financial plans, and regulations.

It empowered the board to propose a budget for Puerto Rico and restructure its obligations owed to bondholders, estimated to be \$6.5 billion, and other creditors.

Although largely patterned on chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, PROMESA did not incorporate all facets of chapter 11 and other relevant provisions of the Code. For example, although the Board is authorized to retain and compensate professional persons in connection with its efforts to reorganize Puerto Rico, PROMESA does not include certain restrictions that the Bankruptcy Code requires for such purposes.

For example, Section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code, unlike PROMESA, authorizes professional persons, such as attorneys, financial advisors, appraisers, and others, to be retained in connection with the administration of a bankruptcy case provided they meet the following conditions: first, such a person must not hold or represent an interest adverse to the bankruptcy estate; and second, the professional must be a “disinterested person.”

As I indicated at the outset, H.R. 683, the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclo-

ures Act of 2019” or “PRRADA,” conditions compensation of professional persons retained under PROMESA upon the applicant providing certain disclosures similar to those required under Bankruptcy Code section 327.

In addition, it would require the United States Trustee to review such disclosures and submit comments in response to the court as well as authorize the United States trustee to object to compensation requested by professionals. Further, the measure would apply retroactively to professionals who have previously been awarded compensation.

Finally, H.R. 683 would authorize the court to deny allowance of compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses accruing after the bill's enactment date if the professional person did not comply with the disclosure requirement, was not a disinterested person, or represented or held an interest adverse to the bankruptcy estate.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 683, the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2019.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 683, 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.

## COMBAT ONLINE PREDATORS ACT

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 134) to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 134

*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 “Combat Online Predators Act”.

### SEC. 2. ENHANCED PENALTY FOR STALKERS OF CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 110A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2261A the following:

#### “§2261B. Enhanced penalty for stalkers of children

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), if the victim of an offense under section 2261A is under the age of 18 years, the maximum imprisonment for the offense is 5 years greater than the maximum term of imprisonment otherwise provided for that offense in section 2261.

“(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who violates section 2261A if—

“(1) the person is subject to a sentence under section 2261(b)(5); and

“(2)(A) the person is under the age of 18 at the time the offense occurred; or

“(B) the victim of the offense is not less than 15 nor more than 17 years of age and not more than 3 years younger than the person who committed the offense at the time the offense occurred.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 110A of

title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2261A the following new item:

“2261B. Enhanced penalty for stalkers of children.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 2261(b) of this title” and inserting “section 2261(b) or section 2261B, as the case may be”.

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI-STALKING LAWS.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress, which shall—

(1) include an evaluation of Federal, Tribal, State, and local efforts to enforce laws relating to stalking; and

(2) identify and describe those elements of such efforts that constitute the best practices for the enforcement of such laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the safety of our children is paramount, and the preservation of their future is critical.

Across this country and around the world, we have awakened to a new normal where our lives are tethered to the internet like never before. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to execute our daily routines online.

Children and adolescents across this country are engaged in virtual learning every day. Therefore, they are spending countless hours on the internet.

While this approach to learning is vital in keeping our children safe from the spread of the virus, the widespread use of the internet and social media can make stalking easier to carry out, allowing predators to exploit the easy access to our children.

The borderless nature of the internet has allowed these types of internet crimes to transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Current Federal law prohibits narrowly defined instances of stalking where they are accomplished via interstate travel or through electronic means.

This is why we must make sensible modifications to the stalking statute, especially given that children and adolescents are, in many respects, among the most vulnerable of our population.

Stalking affects millions of men and women in the United States. Stalking is common. About 1 in 6 women and 1

in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes.

Stalking starts early. Nearly 54 percent of female victims and 41 percent of male victims experience stalking before the age of 25 and 16.3 percent of female victims and 20.5 percent of male victims before the age of 18.

Stalking impacts the physical and mental health of victims. Research shows that stalking can lead to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. About 68 percent of female victims and 78 percent of male victims experience threats of physical harm during their lifetimes.

I support S. 134, the Combat Online Predators Act, because this bill amends 18 U.S.C. 2261A, which criminalizes stalking when a person travels in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to kill, injure, harass, intimidate, or place under surveillance with the intent to otherwise kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person.

This can be even more critical when young people are victimized in this way, which may occur in person or online, via cellphones, computers, email, text messages, and on social media platforms, which is sometimes referred to as cyberstalking.

Consequently, this bill is timely because it increases the maximum prison term for a stalking offense by adding 5 years if the victim is under the age of 18. The increased maximum penalty for this crime when committed against our children is reasonable.

This bill also understands that some behavior among young people should not be subject to enhancement that would apply to individuals who are older and more mature. Therefore, this bill makes an exception where the enhanced penalty shall not apply for the person who violates the stalking statute if the person is under the age of 18 at the time of the offense, or the victim of the offense is not less than 15 nor more than 17 years of age and not more than 3 years younger than the person who committed the offense at the time the offense occurred.

The bill further requires that the Attorney General submit to Congress a report which shall include an evaluation of Federal, State, Tribal, and other local efforts to enforce laws related to stalking and to identify and describe those elements of such efforts that constitute the best practices for the enforcement of such laws.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sensible bipartisan bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 134, the Combat Online Predators Act.

This bill will give law enforcement officers additional tools to keep children safe from adults who stalk or target them both in person and online. This bill raises the maximum criminal

penalty for stalking by an additional 5 years if the victim is a minor.

In addition, the bill directs the Attorney General and the Department of Justice to produce a report evaluating Federal, State, and local laws that relate to stalking and to describe best practices for enforcing those laws.

We must do everything in our power to protect the most vulnerable among us from digital predators. We must ensure that courts have the ability to sentence convicted stalkers to an appropriate prison term.

This bipartisan bill will help to protect our Nation's children from online predators, give their families peace of mind, and make our communities safer.

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

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my friend.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as my friend, DAVID CICILLINE, just alluded to, we have no higher responsibility than to protect our children.

Cyberstalking is a serious crime that needs to be met with stricter penalties and more cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies, including my friends and colleagues in my former agency, the FBI.

The Office of Women's Health defines stalking as repeated contact that makes one feel afraid or harassed. Each year, this crime affects an estimated 7.5 million people, including many children.

Stalking disproportionately impacts women. Stalking victims are 50 percent more likely to be female, and according to the CDC, one in six women has experienced some form of stalking in their lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, my Combat Online Predators Act ensures that not only are we increasing penalties for these crimes, but we are also requiring Federal law enforcement officials to evaluate and update practices to combat this online harassment.

This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties for stalkers under title 18, section 2261, by up to 5 years if the victim is a minor.

Moreover, the legislation calls for the Attorney General and the Department of Justice to produce an evaluation of Federal, State, and local efforts to enforce laws relating to stalking and to identify and describe elements of these enforcement efforts that constitute best practices across the United States.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this legislation was inspired by the story of a family in my district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the Zezzo family, whose teenage daughter, at the age of just 13 years old, was cyberstalked by a friend's father through social media.

Despite the stalking being sexual in nature, the then 51-year-old stalker pleaded guilty only to a misdemeanor stalking charge and was sentenced to probation and counseling.

Three years later, in 2016, this very same stalker began making contact again. Hiding behind social media, the predator created a perverted library of over 15,000 posts detailing his warped vision to marry her and his insistence that no one could ever stop him from being with her.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, following a sting operation by our hero law enforcement officers, local police arrested him and sentenced him to between 18 months and 7 years in State prison.

Sitting with the Zezzo family, I saw the pain in their eyes. After hearing the disturbing story of cyberstalking endured by this young girl and her family for years, the pain that they have endured for years and still endure to this day, I knew that something had to be done.

My Combat Online Predators Act is the first step in making the internet a safer environment for all users, especially young Americans, and this step cannot come soon enough.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CICILLINE and members of the committee. I thank the Zezzo family, particularly Madison and Erin Zezzo, for their advocacy in this incredibly important issue. They have turned their unspeakable pain into action and provided a voice for all cyberstalking victims across this country, especially our young victims and our children.

We will continue to fight for justice for all victims.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY, my partner in this legislation, and Senator PAT TOOMEY and Senator Bob Casey from my home State of Pennsylvania, all of whom had a part to play in this.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to forcefully respond to egregious instances of stalking and cyberstalking, especially when committed against the most vulnerable among us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Combat Online Predators Act.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished and respected member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the manager of the bill for his leadership continuously on issues of technology as well as his very fine work on the issues of antitrust.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the manager of this legislation. As well, I thank the Senate and the Senate sponsor for some very important legislation.

It is interesting that we would be able to bring this legislation up in a time when our children, in particular, are wedded to virtual technology or

virtual learning all over America, leaving them vulnerable in terms of what has the opportunity to become a predator.

So, I couldn't think of a more important moment to bring up S. 134, the Combat Online Predators Act, making it very clear the lack of tolerance for practices that would create harassment of children.

Clearly, now, with virtual learning being at the cornerstone of the survival of education for our children with COVID-19 raging, it seems an appropriate initiative.

The legislation calls for the Attorney General and the Department of Justice to produce an evaluation of Federal, State, and local efforts to enforce laws relating to stalking and to identify and describe elements of these efforts that constitute best practices.

Our intent here is to save lives and, as well, to protect our children, protect their minds, protect their thoughts, protect the information that might draw them to leave home. We know that that certainly has been a basis for many of our children running away, because someone caught them on the internet.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the United States Senate because this was a difficult amendment to be able to craft and to understand, and that is that we recognize that children can be children.

In essence, this legislation also has, for parents to understand, a provision that if children are within a certain age and the stalker is not much older than a child over 15 and under 17 and they engage in the kind of play that teenagers might engage in—we call it Romeo and Juliet—that those individuals would be exempt from the criminal aspects of this legislation.

I think it is a very important exception inasmuch as we want parents to be engaged as much as we can in teaching teenagers and young people and overseeing their activity, making sure they don't do things that would create a criminal liability or criminal acts.

So, I support this legislation because of its fairness; because of the recognition by the Senate of the importance of that exemption; and, most of all, to be able to make a national statement while we are in the midst of COVID-19, and our children are facing virtually everything, that we want to combat online predators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this act, S. 134, to protect our children.

□ 1700

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I think everything has been said. Everything now is online, and that is the reason this bill is so important as well. That is the rea-

son why I rise in support of S. 134, the Combat Online Predators Act.

I am a proud cosponsor of the House companion bill, H.R. 4203, which was introduced by my good friends, Representatives BRIAN FITZPATRICK and STEPHANIE MURPHY.

I think this legislation is straightforward. It increased the maximum prison term for a stalking offense by 5 additional years if the victim is under age 18. Additionally, the Attorney General must issue a report on the best practices for the enforcement of Federal, State, local, and Tribal stalking laws as well.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, during a 12-month period, an estimated 14 in every 1,000 persons age 18 or older are victims of stalking. Overall, 7.5 million people across the Nation reported being affected by these, according to the National Center for Victims of Crime and sponsored by the Office of Violence Against Women.

The same study shows 46 percent of the stalking victims experienced at least one unwanted contact per week, and 11 percent of the victims say they have been stalked for 5 years or more.

Approximately one in four stalking victims reported some form of cyberstalking. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 83 percent of victims reported that they received emails from their stalkers, while 35 percent reported receiving instant messaging.

In addition to stalking, every jurisdiction in the U.S. has laws addressing electronic harassment, and Federal law also criminalizes the use of technology in stalking.

Puerto Rico has recently taken steps to enact a special leave policy for those who are victims of crimes, such as gender-based crimes, abuse, harassment, and felony stalking. The special leave law provides up to 15 days annually where an employee is able to address crimes through legal means to ensure that victims are able to seek the proper resources necessary to achieve justice.

While Puerto Rico may lead in terms of supporting those afflicted by these crimes, justice must be severe for those who prey on the most vulnerable among us.

Again, I thank Representatives Fitzpatrick and Murphy for leading the House version of this legislation, and, of course, the Senate for passing this bill. That is the reason I urge my colleagues to support S. 134.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, technology has improved our lives in a myriad of ways, but it has also given bad actors more tools and, in many instances, stalkers can victimize their targets without ever leaving their home and a victim can often feel like they have nowhere to escape.

I applaud the work of Senator TOOMEY and Congressman FITZPATRICK,

who sponsored the House companion to this bill on this important legislation.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure because stalking is a crime in which victims are made to live in constant fear. The effects of stalking can manifest both physically and mentally and have short-term and long-term consequences.

In this digital and technological world that we have now all immersed ourselves in, it is imperative that we remain more vigilant of the nefarious activities of those lurking in the shadows to exploit our children's vulnerabilities.

Hence, I support the Combat Online Predators Act and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 134.

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.

#### SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2020

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8354) to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8354

*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 "Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020."

##### SEC. 2. SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

(b) DUTIES.—The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative shall—

(1) serve as legal and policy advisor to the Attorney General on the Department of Justice's efforts to enforce criminal and civil laws that impact servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

(2) develop policy recommendations for the Attorney General on how the Department of Justice may improve enforcement of Federal law to support servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

(3) serve as the liaison and point of contact between the Department of Justice and the military departments;

(4) provide counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure funding decisions take into account servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

(5) consult with components of the Department of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid to servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

(6) serve as a liaison and point of contact with the Consumer Protection Branch of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, with respect to the prosecution of Federal crimes involving fraud that target servicemembers; and

(7) serve as a liaison and point of contact with other components of the Department of Justice as needed to support the enforcement of other Federal laws that protect servicemembers and veterans, as the Attorney General determines appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 8354, the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020.

I thank Chairman NADLER for his leadership and support of this important legislation, along with my colleague from Texas, Congressman TAYLOR, for leading this bill with me.

This measure is the result of a truly bipartisan effort. My staff also worked closely with the committee and incorporated feedback from the Department of Justice in drafting the text. I am so grateful to everyone who made this bill better.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act establishes in statute the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. The bill details the initiative's responsibilities to promote the legal interests of servicemembers, veterans, and their families, such as advising the Attorney General on efforts to support this population; developing policy recommendations; and serving as the liaison and point of contact with other components of DOJ to support the enforcement of Federal laws that protect servicemembers and veterans, like coordinating the prosecution of fraud.

As the proud Representative of Texas' 16th Congressional District, home to Fort Bliss and nearly 50,000 veterans, I know firsthand the importance of protecting this population with unique needs that necessitate specialized knowledge of the armed services and veterans' affairs.

I have learned more about the military community through my seat on the House Armed Services Committee,

where I have heard various examples of the challenges they face, from financial scams that unfairly target this population to unsafe housing conditions.

Currently, the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative draws on personnel from the Civil Rights Division and the Office of Justice Programs to enforce civil laws, such as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, among others, to protect our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Creating an independent and permanent home for these employees will allow them to better protect servicemembers and preserve institutional knowledge. The bill would also ensure that DOJ is coordinating closely with the military departments so that servicemembers, veterans, and their families are aware of their legal rights and available benefits.

Several veterans service organizations have endorsed this measure—Paralyzed Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, and Veterans Education Success—recognizing the significance of having a dedicated focus on those who have served our Nation.

Finally, I am grateful to Senator HIRONO for introducing this measure in the Senate, and I look forward to working with her to advance the bill further.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8354, codifies the DOJ's Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative, the important work that our Department does to honor and support our Nation's veterans.

The initiative coordinates with the Civil Rights Division and other Justice Department components to enforce Federal laws protecting servicemembers, veterans, and their families. These laws include the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

The DOJ's enforcement of these laws has helped our men and women in uniform. For example, the Department reports that enforcement of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act has provided more than \$474 million in relief for over 120,000 servicemembers whose rights were violated.

Just last year, Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband announced the largest-ever settlement against a landlord or property management company for violations of the SCRA. This is important work that needs to continue.

During the Trump administration, the Justice Department has expanded the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative by launching the Veterans' Access Initiative. The Veterans' Access

Initiative focuses on accessibility issues for veterans and servicemembers under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA is an important tool for ensuring that those veterans who return from service with a disability can effectively reintegrate into civilian life.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative provides resources to the public and legal practitioners about Federal laws protecting servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The initiative also provides support and conducts outreach to servicemembers, veterans, and their families through the military departments.

This is a good bill to codify an existing Justice Department program, and I encourage all Members to support it.

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

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TAYLOR), my good friend.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the legislation that I introduced with my colleague and fellow Texan from the 16th District, VERONICA ESCOBAR, H.R. 8354, the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act.

As a veteran who proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps, I know how important it is to ensure that those who have served in our armed services are protected from fraud and appropriately represented by the Department of Justice.

We owe a great deal to the courageous men and women who risked their lives to keep us free. Just as they have fought to keep us safe, we must also work here in Congress to protect those servicemembers from those who wish to do them harm, and that is exactly what this bill aims to do.

H.R. 8354 would formally establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice and codify its role and responsibilities. This office would be tasked with protecting the legal interests of the military and veterans community and advise the Attorney General on how to protect servicemembers and veterans from the fraud and predatory schemes that are out there.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission noticed that U.S. servicemembers are increasingly becoming targets of fraud. In fact, our servicemembers and our veterans lose more on a dollar basis than the civilians who are targeted by similar schemes. This is unacceptable, and we owe it to those who serve to prevent this targeted crime.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative at the Department of Justice would also play an important role in coordinating the prosecution of those who commit fraud specifically targeting our Nation's servicemembers and their families.

This bill is an important step toward protecting our Nation's heroes from

fraud, and I am proud to stand with my colleague, Congresswoman ESCOBAR, in support of this bipartisan legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this important bill.

□ 1715

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank my colleagues, specifically Mr. TAYLOR for his partnership on this very important bill and, again, Chairman NADLER and all of those, including staff and members of the Department of Justice, who made this a better bill.

Our servicemembers and veterans have worked tirelessly to protect us at home and abroad. It is only right that we work as hard as possible to protect their rights and shield them from abuses such as fraud, predatory lending, and other victimization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bipartisan effort to ensure the best for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8354, the "Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020," which would permanently establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative (SVI) within the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division.

I thank my colleague from Texas, Congresswoman ESCOBAR (TX-16), for introducing this important legislation, which I am proud to be a cosponsor.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act details SVI's responsibilities to promote the legal interests of servicemembers, veterans, and their families within the Department of Justice.

Among the responsibilities of the SVI would be to make policy on behalf of the Attorney General on legal issues that impact servicemembers, veterans, and their families and appoint a liaison to the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division to coordinate Federal prosecutions involving cases of fraud against servicemembers.

SVI currently has no formal statutory authorization so assigning a liaison in SVI to coordinate criminal fraud prosecutions is critical to protecting servicemembers.

Civil actions initiated by DOJ have not, thus far, stemmed the rising number of fraud schemes, in housing in particular, that target servicemembers.

Criminal prosecutions, available under the current fraud statutes, would provide a strong deterrent to widespread efforts to defraud servicemembers.

By giving SVI a permanent home in DOJ's Civil Rights Division, this bill would ensure that DOJ will continue to provide outreach to servicemembers, will provide the Attorney General with policy recommendations on servicemember-related matters, and will enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, among other laws.

Mr. Speaker, fraud schemes that target servicemembers and their families are especially pernicious.

Within just the preceding five years, the FTC received over 163,000 reports of fraud targeting military retirees and veterans, and nearly 13,000 fraud reports from active duty service members.

More shamefully, the FTC ascertained that the median loss in these cases was significantly higher for servicemembers and veterans than for their civilian counterparts.

Establishing this direct link to the Criminal Division will enable the Justice Department to be more effective in addressing civil and criminal frauds against servicemembers and their families.

A significant number of military veterans live in Houston, Texas.

They are business owners, laborers and community servants who continue to contribute to the local economy.

It is estimated that 18.5 million veterans live in the United States, of which 282,511 call Houston home.

In fact, the Houston metropolitan area is home to nearly one-fifth of Texas' veterans.

Houston-area servicemen and women have served in the Gulf wars, the Korean War and World War II.

But the largest percentage of the Houston veteran population served in the Vietnam War. Most of them are between 35 and 54 years old.

I call on my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 8354 to provide much needed support for our nation's veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8354, 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. ESCOBAR. 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 motion will be postponed.

#### OPEN COURTS ACT OF 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8235) to provide for the modernization of electronic case management 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. 8235

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

#### SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Open Courts Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF ELECTRONIC COURT RECORDS SYSTEMS.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—Not later than the date specified in subsection (e), as modified by any adjustments certified pursuant to section 6(b), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, shall develop, deliver, and sustain, consistent with the requirements of

this section and section 3, one system for all public court records.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS OF SYSTEM.**—The system described in subsection (a) shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) The system shall provide search functions, developed in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, for use by the public and by parties before the court.

(2) The system shall make public court records automatically accessible to the public upon receipt of such records.

(3) Any information made available through a website established pursuant to section 205 of the E-Government Act of 2002 shall be included in the system.

(4) Any website for the system shall substantially comply with the requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of section 205 of the E-Government Act of 2002.

(5) To the extent practicable, external websites shall be able to link to documents on the system. Each website established pursuant to section 205 of the E-Government Act of 2002 shall contain a link to the system.

(c) **DATA STANDARDS.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA STANDARDS.**—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and the Archivist of the United States, shall establish data standards for the system described in this section and section 3.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The data standards established under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

(A) incorporate widely accepted common data elements;

(B) incorporate a widely accepted, non-proprietary, full text searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format; and

(C) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary.

(3) **DEADLINES.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall issue guidance to all Federal courts on the data standards established under this section.

(d) **USE OF TECHNOLOGY.**—In carrying out the duties under subsection (a), the Director shall use modern technology in order—

(1) to improve security, data accessibility, data quality, affordability, and performance; and

(2) to minimize the burden on pro se litigants.

(e) **DATE SPECIFIED.**—The date specified in this subsection is January 1, 2025, unless the Administrator of General Services certifies to Congress, by not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, that an additional period of time is required. If the Administrator so certifies, the date specified in this subsection shall be a date that is no later than January 1, 2026.

(f) **FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF MODERNIZED COURT RECORDS SYSTEM.**—

(1) **SHORT TERM ACCESS FEES TO FUND DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF MODERNIZED COURT RECORDS SYSTEM.**—Until the date specified in subsection (e), to cover the costs of carrying out this section and section 3 and pursuant to sections 1913, 1914, 1926, 1930, and 1932 of title 28, United States Code, the Judicial Conference shall prescribe a progressive schedule of reasonable additional fees for persons, other than government agencies, who accrue fees for electronic access to information under section 303 of Public Law 102-140 (28 U.S.C. 1913 note; 105 Stat. 807) in an amount of \$6,000 or greater in any quarter. Any such additional fees shall be assessed on a progressive fee schedule according to the level of use so that higher volume users are assessed higher fees.

(2) **PRICING FOR HIGH-VOLUME, FOR-PROFIT USE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to sections 1913, 1914, 1926, 1930, and 1932 of title 28, United States Code, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and the Office of Technology Transformation of the General Services Administration, may prescribe a schedule of reasonable fees for high-volume, for-profit public users of the system described in this section and section 3, to facilitate service-level agreements for maximum response times, integrations, high availability, and service and support.

(B) **FEE REQUIREMENTS.**—The schedule of fees described in paragraph (1) shall be based on a determination of specific and substantial need, and may not impair access to justice and the public right of access to court records, restrain innovation in the provision of legal services and access to public court records, nor inhibit not for profit research of the business of the Federal courts.

(3) **FEES TO FUND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MODERNIZED COURT RECORDS SYSTEM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To cover the costs of carrying out this Act, the Judicial Conference of the United States may, only to the extent necessary, prescribe schedules of reasonable user fees, pursuant to sections 1913, 1914, 1926, 1930, and 1932 of title 28, United States Code. Such fees shall be based on the extent of use of the system described under this section and section 3 as well as factors such as feasibility, fairness to other users of the system, and efficacy, and may not foreclose access to justice and the public right of access to court records.

(B) **FILING FEES PROHIBITED.**—The Judicial Conference of the United States may not prescribe filing fees to cover the cost of the system described in this section and section 3 unless the Judicial Conference determines that all other sources of fees will not cover the costs of such system. Only after such a determination and only to the extent necessary, the Judicial Conference may prescribe schedules of progressive filing fees under subparagraph (A). In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A), such filing fees—

(i) shall be based on factors to ensure that such schedules are graduated and equitable, including the type of action and claim for relief, the status of a filer, the amount of damages demanded, the estimated complexity of the type of action, and the interests of justice;

(ii) may be prescribed for the filing of a counterclaim;

(iii) shall not apply in the case of a pro se litigant or litigant who certifies the litigant's financial hardship;

(iv) shall not be a basis for rejecting a filing or otherwise denying a party seeking relief access to the courts of the United States;

(v) shall be assessed according to schedules, not on a case-by-case, ad hoc basis; and

(vi) shall not be greater than 15 percent of any other fees associated with the filing.

(4) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

(A) **DEPOSIT FEES.**—All fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited as offsetting collections to the Judiciary Information Technology Fund pursuant to section 612(c)(1)(A) of title 28, United States Code, to reimburse expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

(B) **AUTHORIZED USES OF FEES.**—Amounts deposited to the Judiciary Information Technology Fund pursuant to this paragraph and not used to reimburse expenses incurred in carrying out this section and section 3 may be used pursuant to section 612(a) of title 28, United States Code.

(5) **INTEREST OF JUSTICE.**—A court may waive any fee imposed under paragraph (3) in the interest of justice upon motion.

(6) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall take effect on the date specified in subsection (e). Paragraph (1) and section 303 of Public Law 102-140 (28 U.S.C. 1913 note; 105 Stat. 807) shall cease to have effect on that date.

### SEC. 3. PUBLIC ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC COURT RECORDS SYSTEM REQUIREMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the date specified in section 2(e), and subject to any certification under section 6(b), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, shall make all materials in the system described in section 2 and this section publicly accessible, free of charge and without requiring registration.

(b) **USE OF TECHNOLOGY.**—In providing public access under subsection (a), the Director shall, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, use modern technology in order—

(1) to improve security, data accessibility, quality, ease of public access, affordability, and performance; and

(2) to minimize the burden on pro se litigants.

(c) **FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO MODERNIZED ELECTRONIC COURT RECORDS SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To cover any marginal costs of ensuring the public accessibility, free of charge, of all materials in the system in accordance with this section, the Judicial Conference of the United States shall collect an annual fee from Federal agencies equal to the Public Access to Court Electronic Records access fees paid by those agencies in 2018, as adjusted for inflation. All fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited as offsetting collections to the Judiciary Information Technology Fund pursuant to section 612(c)(1)(A) of title 28, United States Code, to reimburse expenses incurred in providing services in accordance with this section.

(2) **AUTHORIZED USES OF FEES.**—Amounts deposited to the Judiciary Information Technology Fund pursuant to this subsection and not used to reimburse expenses incurred in carrying out this section may be used to reimburse expenses incurred in carrying out section 2. Amounts not used to reimburse expenses incurred in carrying out section 2 may be used pursuant to section 612(a) of title 28, United States Code.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (1) shall take effect beginning on the date specified in section 2(e).

### SEC. 4. ENSURING MODERN DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.

(a) **INDUSTRY STANDARDS.**—The system described in sections 2 and 3 shall be developed in accordance with industry standards for the incremental development of new information technology systems, including user-centered design, Agile software development practices and procurement, and service-oriented architecture.

(b) **ANALYSES.**—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall, in cooperation with the Administrator of General Services, conduct regular analyses at each stage of system development to ensure that any requirements—

(1) are consistent with this Act;

(2) meet the business needs of users of the system, the public, and the judiciary; and

(3) comply with relevant statutes and rules, including chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the "Rules Enabling Act"), the Federal Rules of Procedure, and local rules and orders of Federal courts.

(c) INITIAL PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to Congress a report with respect to its initial plan for development of the system after consultation with the Office of Technology Transformation Services of the General Services Administration and the United States Digital Service, which may include an analysis of the state of the system as of the date of enactment of this Act, an approach for developing the system consistent with sections 2 and 3 of this Act, and a proposed timeline for development.

(d) REPORTS AND NOTICE.—

(1) REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each quarter after the issuance of the report described in subsection (c), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall report quarterly to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate on progress of the development of the system, improvements achieved, and risks that arise (such as lack of funding source or lack of technological solutions to meet the needs of this Act or applicable statutes and rules). Such report shall include an assessment of vendors' compliance with a quality assessment surveillance plan, code quality, and whether the system is meeting users' needs.

(B) SYSTEM STATUS.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to Congress on the policies, goals, performance, budget, contracts, fee proposals, and user fees of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, including input from a cross-section of the nongovernmental users and stakeholders, with respect to the system described in sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

(2) NOTICE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall notify Congress that the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts has—

(A) produced additional usable functionality of the system described under sections 2 and 3 of this Act;

(B) held live, publicly accessible demonstrations of software in development; and

(C) allowed the Comptroller General or a designee to attend all sprint reviews held during such 6 month or quarterly period.

## SEC. 5. REVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF USER FEES.

(a) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Judicial Conference of the United States shall review any schedule of fees prescribed under this Act 3 years after such schedule becomes effective and every 3 years thereafter to ensure that the schedule meets the requirement of this Act. If a fee schedule does not meet such requirements, the Judicial Conference shall prescribe a new schedule of fees pursuant to this section and submit the new schedule of fees to Congress pursuant to this section.

(b) FEE PROPOSAL AND COMMENT PERIODS.—

(1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Judicial Conference of the United States shall publish any schedule of new fees or fee adjustments, as authorized under this Act, in the Federal Register and on the website of the United States Courts. The Judicial Conference shall accept public comment on the proposed fees for a period of not less than 60 days.

(2) PUBLICATION OF FINAL SCHEDULE OF NEW FEES OR FEE ADJUSTMENTS.—After the period specified in paragraph (2), the final schedule of new fees or fee adjustments shall be published in the Federal Register and on the website of the United States Courts along with an explanation of any changes from the

proposed schedule of new fees or fee adjustments.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—A schedule of fees set or adjusted under paragraph (3) may not become effective—

(A) before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day after the date on which the Judicial Conference publishes the schedule of new fees or fee adjustments under paragraph (3); or

(B) if a law is enacted disapproving such fee.

(c) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Judicial Conference of the United States shall periodically study the system described in sections 2 and 3 of this Act in accordance with this section. The study shall examine—

(A) the relative extent to which specific functions and usage of the system are supported, directly or indirectly, by fees, appropriations, and other sources of revenue; and

(B) whether, and to what extent, there are additional fees of any kind that could be more appropriately imposed to support the operations and maintenance of the system and whether or not any such fees should or must be imposed by statute or by judiciary regulation;

(C) whether, and to what extent, there are additional appropriations that should be pursued that should be provided to support the system in lieu of fees; and

(D) whether, and to what extent, there are other sources of revenue that should be provided to support the system.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the appropriateness of any fees, the Judicial Conference of the United States shall consider the extent to which any such fees would—

(A) negatively or positively affect the administration of justice;

(B) impose inappropriate burdens on access to justice by litigants;

(C) relate to the relative impact of activities on system costs;

(D) improve fairness to users;

(E) otherwise be fair or unfair to the public;

(F) be feasible to implement effectively; and

(G) generate meaningful revenue.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference of the United States shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representative and the Senate a report on the conclusions of the study described under this section.

(4) FEE AUTHORITY.—If the Judicial Conference of the United States determines, pursuant to subsection (a), that additional fees are reasonable and necessary to fund the system described in sections 2 and 3, it may promulgate such fees pursuant to section 2(f)(3)(A).

(5) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than every 3 years, the Judicial Conference shall review the matters described in this subsection and report any new findings to Congress as described in this subsection. Any fees may be adjusted pursuant to section 2(f)(3)(A).

## SEC. 6. REPORTING AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS ON FINANCES.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSULTATION CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR.—At the beginning of each fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on—

(1) the status of funding the system described under sections 2 and 3; and

(2) plans for any new fee proposals or adjustments and whether there is a foreseeable need to use the certification authority provided under subsection (b)(2) in the following fiscal year.

(b) CERTIFICATION REGARDING ANTICIPATED FUNDING IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may treat any and all receipts, funds, expenditures and costs associated with the system established under sections 2 and 3 as constituting a separate item in its budget distinct from the remainder of its budget.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—At the beginning of a fiscal year, starting in fiscal year 2023, and only when necessary, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may submit a certification, including supporting documentation and analysis, to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which—

(A) identifies any expected deficit in funds for that fiscal year; and

(B) specifies the Director's response for such deficit for the remainder of that fiscal year, including—

(i) modifying the scope and scale of the system described in sections 2 and 3;

(ii) increasing fees or other receipts within the Judicial Conference's authority; and

(iii) temporarily delaying the delivery of the system.

(3) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the certification described in paragraph (2), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall meet in person concerning the certification, supporting documentation, and analysis.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may implement its response described in paragraph (2) any time after the 30-day period following the consultation described in paragraph (3).

(5) GAO REVIEW.—In any fiscal year during which such certification is issued and implemented, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a comprehensive review of the certification not later than 120 days after its submission, including—

(A) the accuracy of the expectations of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts with respect to any deficit in funds;

(B) the efficacy of the Director's recommended response; and

(C) the Comptroller General's recommendations for alternative or additional responses submitted as a report to the Director and Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(6) DIRECTOR RESPONSE TO REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the Comptroller General of the United States conducts a review under paragraph (5), the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall prepare and submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate a response to such review.

## SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to—

(1) affect the filing fees or other filing procedures for prisoners; or

(2) abrogate, limit, or modify the requirements described in section 1915 of title 28, United States Code.

**SEC. 8. DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS.**

The system described under sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall comply with relevant digital accessibility standards established pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**SEC. 9. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8235, as amended, the Open Courts Act, which would require the Federal judiciary to allow free public access to court records over the internet and modernize the court records system so that it will cost less to maintain and be more secure.

This act is the product of over 5 years of bipartisan effort, and I am so proud that we have gotten the bill to this moment.

I first want to thank the majority leader, STENY HOYER, for his involvement and commitment to bringing this important legislation to the floor, and I would like to thank Director Duff and his staff for their recent attention to this bill.

I also want to thank Mr. JORDAN for his support for this bill at the committee's markup.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize our partners in the Senate, Senators PORTMAN and WYDEN, for their leadership and commitment to this effort.

Finally, I extend sincere appreciation to my colleague from Georgia, DOUG COLLINS, the colead on this bill. I want to thank him for his partnership in working to make the Federal court records system freely accessible to all Americans.

I would also like to thank Perry Apelbaum with the Judiciary Committee, Jamie Simpson and Matt Robinson of my subcommittee, Jon Ferro with Congressman COLLINS' office, and I would also like to give a special thanks to Keith Abouchar with Leader

HOYER's office for all of his efforts to help us be on the floor today with this bill. Without everyone's persistence, dedication, and countless hours of hard work behind the scenes, we would not be here today.

Mr. Speaker, wealth should not act as a barrier to access our courts. Whether it is a journalist reporting on the courts' activities or a citizen petitioning the court for redress, access to the courts should be free to all, not just to those who can afford it.

Forcing the public to pay for access to court records imposes an unnecessary and unconscionable burden on people who are simply engaging in a constitutionally protected activity. Transparency and accessibility should be our goal, not profits and limited access.

Court records should be as easy to access as legislation is on Congress.gov. All you have to do is put in that website, go to it, and look at all of the legislation that we produce, Mr. Speaker, and you should be able to do the same thing at the Federal courthouse.

Our courts are a vital part of America's government, and we in Congress have a responsibility to ensure that public records in public courthouses are accessible for free to the public. This bill provides such protection of our most sacred democratic ideals.

Technology has become essential to preserving our First Amendment rights by helping to ensure meaningful access to justice and to court records. It is past time that we bring our Federal court records system into the 21st century.

Convenient access to public records in public courthouses shouldn't be a privilege for the few who can afford it. It is our duty to change the system, and that is what this bill does. It finally makes it fairer for everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join us voting on this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020, will modernize the judicial branch and bring it sometimes kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

First, the bill will update and streamline the Federal judiciary's case management system, ushering in much-needed improvements to the technological capabilities of the system.

The bill will consolidate the judiciary's electronic court records system, establish certain data standards, and require the records system to follow those standards. These improvements to the case management system will increase the efficiency and improve the availability of court records to the American public.

Second, the Open Courts Act will require that Federal court records are free and accessible. By ensuring that

public records are freely accessible, this bill will bring increased transparency to our judicial process.

The reforms contained in the Open Courts Act are not new ideas. Advocates of judicial transparency have long supported efforts to make court records free to the public. The Open Courts Act makes long overdue, commonsense reforms. This bipartisan legislation will expand the public's ability to not only find court records, but to access them as well.

However, before I conclude my statement, I do want to note one thing. While this bill is bipartisan, the text was updated late last night. The bill now contains an additional eight pages and includes various changes to the text, specifically regarding redaction language of sensitive info.

I understand why courts don't necessarily want this burden, and typically, under current process, filers are the ones who do the redactions, but now the text seems to be silent on the redaction of sensitive information altogether.

I honestly don't know where that places the current policy, and the reason I don't know is because we were made aware of these changes less than 24 hours ago. This is not how a bipartisan bill is supposed to proceed, and it is a really good way to get a broad bipartisan bill to not become law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Judicial Conference of the United States.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2020.

Hon. STENY HOYER,  
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: I write on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body of the federal Judiciary, to express our continued strong opposition to H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020 ("OCA"), which is scheduled for floor action on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. This legislation—which will take years to implement—rushes forward without appropriate and necessary assurances and provisions regarding the budget for such an enormous undertaking. The bill as drafted will have devastating budgetary and operational impact on the Judiciary and our ability to serve the public.

We very much appreciate that you, along with House Judiciary Courts Subcommittee Chairman Hank Johnson, intervened last week after my helpful conversation with Chairman Johnson to prompt more dialogue between the branches. The many hours of staff conversations, through the weekend, that followed your encouragement led to some significant textual changes to the bill. We are grateful for those efforts which addressed some of our concerns with the previous version of the bill. Very serious concerns remain, however, and further dialogue is much needed.

The fact is that our preliminary estimates for the cost of this bill is orders of magnitude higher than the bill's proponents have presumed—currently we are \$2 billion apart—and CBO's hurried and preliminary estimates of the cost of developing and implementing a new electronic filing and public

access system, in our view, vastly underestimates the cost of the bill. Critically, some of the bill's revenue streams are also untested, difficult to administer and/or impossible to estimate reliably in advance.

In our cost estimates are correct—or even marginally closer to correct than the bill's proponents—there is no scenario in which the revenue generated by the bill could be sufficient to cover those costs. This will force the Judiciary to slash funding for staff and other critical operations. Moreover, the Judiciary's backbone case management system, and therefore the Judiciary itself, could grind to a halt. In anticipation of a funding shortfall, the bill now provides for an emergency pause in the transition to the new system required by the bill. This might be preferable to the forced accommodation of significant unbudgeted costs, but such a pause in the middle of a massive transition of systems would result in its own substantial disruptions.

Better information on the costs of this bill and the revenues it would generate is needed to ensure that the Judiciary and public users of this system avoid devastating consequences. We believe we will have a much clearer picture of cost projections in early Spring 2021, at the conclusion of the first phase of a study for a replacement case management system to be performed by GSA.

The Judiciary has other major concerns with the bill, including issues of technological feasibility, security, and governance, but the threat of devastating budget consequences for the Third Branch simply cannot be overemphasized.

The Judiciary is committed to working collaboratively with the next Congress to improve our systems for filing, storing, managing, and making available to the public all relevant court records. We recognize and share Congress' bipartisan interest in a modern, effective, fair and successfully funded system. The current version of the Open Courts Act, however, is not the way to accomplish those goals. We look forward to working through these shared goals with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. DUFF,  
*Secretary.*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, let me first just acknowledge the well-intentioned goals of this legislation and my colleagues from Georgia in a bipartisan way working together. I applaud their efforts to attempt to modernize the judicial branch and make judicial records more accessible to the American people. Nevertheless, I regrettably rise with reservations, as a former practitioner in Federal court, regarding H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020.

According to the Judicial Conference of the United States, the bill, as drafted, would have devastating budgetary and operational impacts on the judiciary's ability to serve the public. Current estimates for the cost of the bill from the Judicial Conference are currently \$2 billion apart from the Congressional Budget Office's preliminary estimates of the cost to develop and implement a new electronic filing and public access system.

Should these cost estimates be correct, there is no scenario in which the revenue generated by the bill would cover costs, forcing the judiciary to slash funding for staff and other critical operations. This bill has a \$2 billion price tag, and the entire budget of

the Federal judiciary is only \$8 billion, annually.

Additionally, despite the bill's cap on increases to filing fees, it authorizes the judiciary to raise filing fees if the other revenue sources in the bill prove insufficient to cover costs.

I know my colleagues do not want to deny access to the Federal courts. Ultimately, this bill does not resolve some of the judiciary's most fundamental concerns, and, as a result, I regrettably urge my colleagues to consider these issues and the bill's impact on the judiciary.

I know the Judicial Conference is willing to work with Congress to resolve some of these outstanding issues and to get at the sponsors' goals—which are very laudable, indeed—and that is to modernize the judicial branch and to make judicial records more accessible to the American people.

I will say that, under current law, low-income Americans can access many of these records without cost, and the vast majority of those organizations and individuals that are paying for these records and underwriting the costs are institutions that have the means to do so.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider these issues and the bill's potential impact on the judiciary, and I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to work with the Judicial Conference to resolve these outstanding concerns.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my friend.

This has been a 5-year, bipartisan effort that only recently yielded the ability of the Judicial Conference, through the Administrative Office, to actually come to the table and talk to Congress to try to work out their concerns.

After about a week of lots of conversation, hours upon hours of conversation, dialogue, and negotiations, we came up with an amended bill. Then at the very last minute, today, the Judicial Conference issues a letter citing a preposterous figure—\$2 billion—for this system, which is not attached to any realistic cost estimate whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO's, Congressional Budget Office's, estimate of the cost of the Open Courts Act to put in a new system that is more secure and more user friendly than the one that is in place right now.

CBO ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS OF H.R. 8235, THE OPEN COURTS ACT OF 2020, AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

Estimates relative to CBO's March 2020 baseline. Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

H.R. 8235 would require the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC), working in coordination with the General Services Administration, to develop and implement a modernized software system to manage the electronic records of the court.

The legislation would require that public court records be accessible to the public, and would authorize the AOUSC to impose new fees—particularly on high-volume, for-profit users—to cover the costs of developing and maintaining the new system.

If enacted, CBO expects those fees would generate \$47 million in additional revenue over the 2021–2030 period, mostly from high-volume users of the system. CBO believes that the new fees should be recorded in the budget as revenues, because they are new and an exercise of the government's sovereign power over the federal judiciary. Those revenues would be offset by a decline in other revenues of approximately 22 percent to account for indirect tax effects. As a result, CBO estimates that the legislation would increase net revenues by \$37 million over that period.

Under the bill, the additional revenue would be deposited in the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, and the AOUSC would be authorized to spend those fees without further appropriation. As a result, CBO estimates H.R. 8235 would increase direct spending by \$46 million over the 2021–2030 period. CBO expects that most of those costs would be incurred during the 2021–2025 period as major work on software development is completed and the system is deployed across the federal judiciary.

On net, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8235 would increase the deficit by \$9 million over the 2021–2030 period.

If enacted, H.R. 8235 also would affect spending subject to appropriation by the AOUSC; CBO has not completed an estimate of that effect.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. It is a state-of-the-art, 21st century system as opposed to a 1985 system, one that will cost, in the CBO's assessment, about \$46 million over 10 years.

That is a drastic difference than a \$2 billion cost estimate submitted at the last minute to confuse and try to derail passage of this very commonsense, necessary legislation that brings judicial records into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, with all of the concerns that exist, I think the goal of transparency and cost effectiveness are still worthy of this, and I urge support of the bill.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8235 is a bill that will make a meaningful difference in the accessibility and transparency of an entire branch of the Federal Government. It vindicates our critical First Amendment rights and it will establish a level playing field for access to critical government documents. For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, as amended.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairmen JERRY NADLER and HANK JOHNSON, Rep. DOUG COLLINS, Ranking Members JIM JORDAN and MARTHA ROBEY, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts Jim Duff, and their respective staffs for their efforts

to develop and improve this important legislation. A number of improvements have been made over the last several days to the Open Courts Act as reported out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote in September. This bill would mandate the development of a modern public records access system that would also relieve the general public, small law firms, and other modest users of having to pay fees to access public documents filed in federal courts. Among other priorities, the bill would provide for the adoption of a progressive fee schedule applying to aggregators and large law firms, which are the biggest consumers of public court records and use these materials for profit-seeking ends.

I recognize the press of other business may prevent this bill from being enacted before the end of this Congress. Whatever course awaits the Open Courts Act after today's passage, I look forward to continuing working with all the parties to react to any new information that we may receive and continue refining the bill in mutual discussions.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a letter from the Judicial Conference of the United States voicing their opposition and concerns to H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, December 7, 2020.

Hon. STENY HOYER,  
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: I write on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body of the federal Judiciary, to express our continued strong opposition to H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020 ("OCA"), which is scheduled for floor action on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. This legislation—which will take years to implement—rushes forward without appropriate and necessary assurances and provisions regarding the budget for such an enormous undertaking. The bill as drafted will have devastating budgetary and operational impact on the Judiciary and our ability to serve the public.

We very much appreciate that you, along with House Judiciary Courts Subcommittee Chairman Hank Johnson, intervened last week after my helpful conversation with Chairman Johnson to prompt more dialogue between the branches. The many hours of staff conversations, through the weekend, that followed your encouragement led to some significant textual changes to the bill. We are grateful for those efforts which addressed some of our concerns with the previous version of the bill. Very serious concerns remain, however, and further dialogue is much needed.

The fact is that our preliminary estimates for the cost of this bill is orders of magnitude higher than the bill's proponents have presumed—currently we are \$2 billion apart—and CBO's hurried and preliminary estimates of the cost of developing and implementing a new electronic filing and public access system, in our view, vastly underestimate the cost of the bill. Critically, some of the bill's revenue streams are also untested, difficult to administer and/or impossible to estimate reliably in advance.

If our cost estimates are correct—or even marginally closer to correct than the bill's proponents—there is no scenario in which the revenue generated by the bill could be sufficient to cover those costs. This will force the Judiciary to slash funding for staff and other critical operations. Moreover, the Judiciary's backbone case management sys-

tem, and therefore the Judiciary itself, could grind to a halt. In anticipation of a funding shortfall, the bill now provides for an emergency pause in the transition to the new system required by the bill. This might be preferable to the forced accommodation of significant unbudgeted costs, but such a pause in the middle of a massive transition of systems would result in its own substantial disruptions.

Better information on the costs of this bill and the revenues it would generate is needed to ensure that the Judiciary and public users of this system avoid devastating consequences. We believe we will have a much clearer picture of cost projections in early Spring 2021, at the conclusion of the first phase of a study for a replacement case management system to be performed by GSA.

The Judiciary has other major concerns with the bill, including issues of technological feasibility, security, and governance, but the threat of devastating budget consequences for the Third Branch simply cannot be overemphasized.

The Judiciary is committed to working collaboratively with the next Congress to improve our systems for filing, storing, managing, and making available to the public all relevant court records. We recognize and share Congress' bipartisan interest in a modern, effective, fair and successfully funded system. The current version of the Open Courts Act, however, is not the way to accomplish those goals. We look forward to working through these shared goals with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. DUFF,  
Secretary.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8235, the "Open Courts Act of 2020," which would centralize and modernize the federal judiciary's court records systems (called CM/ECF) and would eliminate the payroll (called PACER) that currently forces the public to pay to access these records.

The new system will provide a centralized, easily searchable site to file and read court records and monitor docket activity, and equally important, make all public court records on the site available free of charge.

Every year, the public pays the federal judiciary more than \$100 million in fees so they can read the motions, briefs, orders, exhibits, calendar entries, and other court filings that make up the overwhelming majority of federal litigation and bankruptcy practice.

These fees are used to maintain and operate the judiciary's electronic court records systems (called "case management and electronic court filing systems" or "CM/ECF") that judges, court employees, and the parties before the court use to file documents, issue decisions, and generally manage proceedings.

Although many parties before the court pay a fee to initiate a proceeding or otherwise file a document (generally called "filing fees"), these fees do not support the electronic courts records systems they rely on.

Instead, those systems are subsidized by the public.

The fees the public pays to view federal court records are officially called "electronic public access" or "EPA" fees.

More commonly, they are called "PACER" fees, after the payroll system the public must use to pay for and access those records.

The Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system charges users 10

cents per page to view, download, or search for public court records.

The per-document fee is capped at \$3.00; audio files of court hearings, if they exist, cost \$2.40.

Judicial opinions are free, as are the first \$30 of charges per quarter.

As several retired judges have argued, "openness serves a structural role in our republican system of self-government" and that "opening up judicial records by removing the PACER payroll would be consistent with the best traditions of judicial transparency."

PACER functions as a payroll that the public must pass through to access the judiciary's electronic court records systems.

These systems are highly decentralized—every one of the 94 district courts, 13 courts of appeals, and 90 bankruptcy courts have their own CM/ECF system.

Until recently, for example, a user was required to have a separate username and password for every CM/ECF system—today, some, but not all, courts allow a user to have the same password and username.

Seamus Hughes, the Deputy Director of George Washington University's Program on Extremism, has spent years researching terrorism cases in the United States, Europe, and in the Middle East. As he researches individuals and entities charged with providing material support to foreign and domestic terrorist organizations.

As part of those investigations, he developed expertise in searching the federal court records system and in testimony last year, described the consequences of this set up:

Quite simply, it is not easy to access public court records on PACER. PACER provides access to federal criminal records and is organized by federal districts in each state . . . To use the system you need to apply for a PACER account, get a password, and know what district in each state you want to search. Each search requires the user to know what they are looking for and where. Even then the cost is not always tied to a result.

For example, if you are a terrorism researcher and want to review every case that charges material support to a terrorist organization, you would have to go to 94 different individual court websites and conduct a new and separate search on each website.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, some public court records, including trial exhibits and unsealed documents, are routinely unavailable because they are not posted on a court's CM/ECF system, and documents are difficult to find because there are no uniform tags or naming conventions.

Mr. Speaker, the Open Courts Act of 2020 addresses these problems and helps ensure that the public and free access to the American judicial system remains available.

Section 2(a) of the bill requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, consolidate all federal court records into one system within 2–3 years.

Section 3(a) requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, make all court records on the system established by section 2 freely available to the public.

Section 3(b) grants authority to the Judicial Conference to designate, after notice and

comment, certain categories of records that will be subject to up to a 5-day delay before they are made publicly accessible.

Any such designation must be no broader than necessary and be based on a determination of a specific and substantial interest in restricting the public right of access to court records. Any designation expires after 3 years unless renewed via notice and comment.

Section 3(c) requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, to ensure that the public can search for and access court records, similar to the requirements under Section 2 of this act.

Finally, section 3(d) establishes the dates when all PACER fees must be eliminated and court records are made freely available to the public within two years from enactment unless the Director of General Services certifies that an additional year is needed.

This is needed legislation and I support it.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 8235, the "Open Courts Act of 2020."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8235, 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.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6395, WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on adoption of the conference report on the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, 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 conference report.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 335, nays 78, answered "present" 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 238] YEAS—335

- Adams Beyer Byrne
Aguilar Bilirakis Carbajal
Allen Bishop (GA) Cárdenas
Allred Blunt Rochester Carson (IN)
Amodoi Bost Carter (GA)
Armstrong Brady Cartwright
Axne Brindisi Case
Bacon Brooks (AL) Casten (IL)
Baird Brooks (IN) Castor (FL)
Balderson Brown (MD) Castro (TX)
Banks Brownley (CA) Chabot
Barr Buchanan Cheney
Bass Bucshon Cicilline
Beatty Burgess Cisneros
Bera Bustos Clark (MA)
Bergman Butterfield Clay

- Cleaver Johnson (OH) Roby
Clyburn Johnson (SD) Rodgers (WA)
Cohen Johnson (TX) Roe, David P.
Cole Joyce (OH) Rogers (AL)
Comer Joyce (PA) Rogers (KY)
Conaway Kaptur Rooney (FL)
Connolly Katko Rose (NY)
Cooper Keating Rose, John W.
Correa Keller Rouda
Costa Kelly (IL) Roybal-Allard
Courtney Kelly (MS) Ruiz
Cox (CA) Kelly (PA) Ruppertsberger
Craig Kilmer Rush
Crawford Kim Rutherford
Crenshaw Kind Ryan
Crist King (NY) Sánchez
Crow Kinzinger Sarbanes
Cuellar Kirkpatrick Scanlon
Cunningham Krishnamoorthi Schiff
Curtis Kuster (NH) Schneider
Davids (KS) Kustoff (TN) Schrader
Davis (CA) LaHood Schrier
Davis, Danny K. Lamb Scott (VA)
Davis, Rodney Lamborn Scott, David
Dean Langevin Sensenbrenner
DeFazio Larsen (WA) Sewell (AL)
DeLauro Larson (CT) Shalala
DelBene Latta Sherman
Delgado Lawrence Lawson (FL) Sherrill
Demings Lee (NV) Shimkus
DesJarlais Lesko Simpson
Deutch Levin (CA) Sires
Diaz-Balart Lieu, Ted Slotkin
Dingell Lipinski Smith (NJ)
Doggett Lipinski Smith (WA)
Emmer Loeb sack Smucker
Escobar Lofgren Soto
Eshoo Loudermilk Spanberger
Estes Lowenthal Lowey
Evans Luetkemeyer Speier
Ferguson Luján Stanton
Finkenauer Luria Stauber
Fitzpatrick Fleischmann Stefanik
Fleischmann Fletcher Steil
Fletcher Flores Malinowski Stevens
Flores Maloney, Sean Stewart
Fortenberry Marchant Stivers
Foster Marshall Suozzi
Foxy (NC) Matsui Swalwell (CA)
Frankel McAdams Takano
Fudge McBath Taylor
Gallagher McCarthy Thompson (CA)
Gallego McCaul Thompson (MS)
Garamendi McCollum Thompson (PA)
Garcia (CA) McEachin Thornberry
Garcia (TX) McHenry Timmons
Gianforte McKinley Tipton
Gibbs McNeerney Titus
Golden Meeks Tonko
Frankel Gonzalez (OH) Meuser Torres (CA)
Gonzalez (TX) Mfume Torres Small
Gottheimer Miller (NM)
Granger Mitchell Trahan
Graves (MO) Moolenaar Trone
Green (TN) Morelle Turner
Green, Al (TX) Moulton Underwood
Grijalva Mucarsel-Powell Upton
Grothman Mullin Van Drew
Guest Murphy (FL) Vargas
Guthrie Murphy (NC) Veasey
Haaland Napolitano Vela
Hagedorn Neal Visclosky
Hall Newhouse Wagner
Harder (CA) Norcross Walberg
Hartzler Nunes Walden
Hastings O'Halleran Walorski
Hayes Olson Palazzo
Heck Palazzo Pallone
Hern, Kevin Pallone Palmer
Herrera Beutler Panetta
Higgins (NY) Pappas
Hill (AR) Pascrell
Himes Payne
Holding Hollingsworth Pelosi
Hollingsworth Pelosi
Horn, Kendra S. Perlmutter
Horsford Peters Peterson
Houlihan Case Phillips
Hoyer Hoyer Pingree
Hudson Phillips
Huizenga Porter
Huizenga Porter
Hurd (TX) Price (NC)
Jackson Lee Quigley
Jacobs Reed
Jeffries Rice (NY)
Johnson (GA) Richmond
Johnson (LA) Rigglesman

- NAYS—78
Amash Garcia (IL) Nadler
Arrington Neguse
Babin Gomez Norman
Barragán Gooden Ocasio-Cortez
Biggs Gosar Omar
Bishop (NC) Griffith Pence
Blumenauer Harris Perry
Bonamici Hice (GA) Pocan
Boyle, Brendan Higgins (LA) Posey
F. Huffman Pressley
Buck Jayapal Raskin
Budd Jordan Rice (SC)
Burchett Kennedy Rouzer
Chu, Judy Khanna Roy
Clarke (NY) Kildee Scalise
Cline Lee (CA) Schakowsky
Cloud Levin (MI) Schweikert
Davidson (OH) Long Serrano
DeGette Maloney, Smith (MO)
DeSaulnier Carolyn B. Smith (NE)
Doyle, Michael Massie Tiffany
F. Mast
Duncan McClintock Taib
Españolat McGovern Velázquez
Fulcher Meng Watson Coleman
Gabbard Mooney (WV) Weber (TX)
Gaetz Moore Welch
Yoho

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

- Engel
Abraham Dunn Scott, Austin
Aderholt Graves (LA) Steube
Bishop (UT) King (IA) Walker
Calvert LaMalfa Wright
Carter (TX) Lucas
Collins (GA) Reschenthaler

NOT VOTING—16

□ 1825

Mr. PERRY changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. GROTHMAN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

- Barragán (Beyer) Kirkpatrick Pocan (Raskin)
Bera (Aguilar) (Stanton) Porter (Wexton)
Bonamici (Clark Kuster (NH) Price (NC)
(MA)) (Clark (MA)) (Butterfield)
Brownley (CA) Lamb (Crow) Richmond
(Clark (MA)) Lawson (FL) (Butterfield)
(Deming) Rooney (FL)
Cárdenas Lieu, Ted (Beyer) (Beyer)
(Cisneros) Lofgren (Jeffries) Rouda (Aguilar)
Cohen (Beyer) Lowenthal Roybal-Allard
Costa (Cooper) (Beyer) (Garcia (TX))
Cunningham Lowey (Tonko) Ruiz (Dingell)
(Murphy (FL)) McEachin Rush
Dean (Scanlon) (Wexton) (Underwood)
DeSaulnier Meng (Clark) Schneider
(Matsui) (MA)) (Casten (IL))
Deutch (Rice) Mitchell Schrier
(NY)) (Spanberger) (DelBene)
Doggett (Raskin) Moore (Beyer) Serrano
Frankel (Clark Mucarsel-Powell) (Jeffries)
(MA)) (Wasserman) Titus (Connolly)
Garamendi (Sherman) Schultz) Nadler (Jeffries)
Grijalva (Garcia Napolitano Trahan
(IL)) (Correa) (McGovern)
Hastings Pascrell Vargas (Correa)
(Wasserman (Pallone) Velázquez
Schultz) Payne (Clarke (NY))
Jayapal (Raskin) (Wasserman Watson Coleman
Johnson (TX) Schultz) (Pallone)
(Jeffries) Peters (Kildee) Welch
Kim (Davids Peterson (Craig) (McGovern)
(KS)) Pingree Wilson (FL)
Kind (Beyer) (Cicilline) (Hayes)

SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ). 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. 8354) to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 1, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 239]

YEAS—400

Adams	Courtney	Harder (CA)
Aguiar	Cox (CA)	Harris
Allen	Craig	Hartzler
Allred	Crawford	Hastings
Amodoi	Crenshaw	Hayes
Armstrong	Crist	Heck
Arrington	Crow	Hern, Kevin
Axne	Cuellar	Herrera Beutler
Babin	Cunningham	Hice (GA)
Bacon	Curtis	Higgins (LA)
Baird	Dauids (KS)	Higgins (NY)
Balderson	Davidson (OH)	Hill (AR)
Banks	Davis (CA)	Himes
Barr	Davis, Danny K.	Holding
Barragan	Dean	Hollingsworth
Bass	DeGette	Horn, Kendra S.
Beatty	DeLauro	Horsford
Bera	DelBene	Houlahan
Bergman	Delgado	Hoyer
Beyer	Demings	Hudson
Biggs	DeSaulnier	Huffman
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Huizenga
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Hurd (TX)
Bishop (NC)	Diaz-Balart	Jackson Lee
Blumenauer	Doggett	Jacobs
Blunt Rochester	Doyle, Michael	Jayapal
Bonamici	F.	Jeffries
Bost	Duncan	Johnson (GA)
Boyle, Brendan	Emmer	Johnson (LA)
F.	Engel	Johnson (OH)
Brady	Escobar	Johnson (SD)
Brindisi	Eshoo	Johnson (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Espallat	Jordan
Brooks (IN)	Estes	Joyce (OH)
Brown (MD)	Evans	Joyce (PA)
Brownley (CA)	Ferguson	Kaptur
Buchanan	Finkenauer	Katko
Buck	Fitzpatrick	Keating
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Keller
Budd	Fletcher	Kelly (IL)
Burchett	Flores	Kelly (MS)
Burgess	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Bustos	Foster	Kennedy
Butterfield	Foxx (NC)	Khanna
Byrne	Frankel	Kildee
Carbajal	Fulcher	Kilmer
Cárdenas	Gabbard	Kim
Carson (IN)	Gaetz	Kind
Carter (GA)	Gallagher	King (NY)
Cartwright	Gallego	Kinzinger
Case	Garamendi	Kirkpatrick
Casten (IL)	Garcia (CA)	Krishnamoorthi
Castor (FL)	Garcia (IL)	Kuster (NH)
Castro (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Kustoff (TN)
Chabot	Gianforte	LaHood
Cheney	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Chu, Judy	Gohmert	Lamb
Cicilline	Golden	Lamborn
Cisneros	Gomez	Langevin
Clark (MA)	Gonzalez (OH)	Larsen (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Gonzalez (TX)	Larson (CT)
Clay	Gooden	Latta
Cleaver	Gottheimer	Lawrence
Cline	Graves (MO)	Lawson (FL)
Cloud	Green (TN)	Lee (CA)
Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)	Lee (NV)
Cohen	Griffith	Lesko
Cole	Grijalva	Levin (CA)
Comer	Grothman	Levin (MI)
Conaway	Guest	Lieu, Ted
Connolly	Guthrie	Lipinski
Cooper	Haaland	Loeb sack
Correa	Hagedorn	Lofgren
Costa	Hall	Long

Lowenthal	Phillips	Stanton
Lowe	Pingree	Staubert
Luetkemeyer	Pocan	Stefanik
Lujan	Porter	Steil
Luria	Posey	Stevens
Lynch	Pressley	Stewart
Malinowski	Price (NC)	Stivers
Maloney	Quigley	Suozzi
Maloney, Carolyn B.	Raskin	Swalwell (CA)
Maloney, Sean	Reed	Takano
Marshall	Rice (NY)	Taylor
Massie	Rice (SC)	Thompson (CA)
Mast	Richmond	Thompson (MS)
Matsui	Riggleman	Thompson (PA)
McAdams	Roby	Thornberry
McBath	Rodgers (WA)	Tiffany
McCarthy	Roe, David P.	Timmons
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
McCollum	Rogers (KY)	Titus
McEachin	Rose (NY)	Tlaib
McGovern	Rose, John W.	Tonko
McHenry	Rouda	Torres (CA)
McKinley	Rouzer	Torres Small
McNerney	Roy	(NM)
Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Trahan
Meng	Ruiz	Trone
Meuser	Ruppersberger	Turner
Mfume	Rush	Underwood
Miller	Rutherford	Upton
Moolenaar	Ryan	Van Drew
Mooney (WV)	Sánchez	Vargas
Moore	Sarbanes	Veasey
Morelle	Scalise	Vela
Moulton	Scanlon	Velázquez
Mucarsel-Powell	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Mullin	Schiff	Wagner
Murphy (FL)	Schneider	Walberg
Murphy (NC)	Schrader	Walden
Nadler	Schrier	Walorski
Napolitano	Schweikert	Waltz
Neal	Scott (VA)	Wasserman
Neguse	Scott, David	Schultz
Newhouse	Sensenbrenner	Waters
Norcross	Serrano	Watkins
Norman	Sewell (AL)	Watson Coleman
Nunes	Shalala	Weber (TX)
O'Halleran	Sherman	Webster (FL)
Ocasio-Cortez	Sherrill	Welch
Olson	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Omar	Simpson	Westerman
Palazzo	Sires	Wexton
Pallone	Slotkin	Wild
Palmer	Smith (MO)	Williams
Panetta	Smith (NE)	Wilson (FL)
Pappas	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (SC)
Pascarell	Smith (WA)	Wittman
Payne	Smucker	Womack
Perlmutter	Spanberger	Woodall
Perry	Spano	Yarmuth
Peters	Speier	Young
Peterson		Zeldin

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—28

Abraham	Fudge	Pence
Aderholt	Gosar	Reschenthaler
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Rooney (FL)
Calvert	Graves (LA)	Scott, Austin
Carter (TX)	King (IA)	Steube
Collins (GA)	Loudermilk	Walker
Davis, Rodney	Lucas	Wright
DeFazio	Marchant	Yoho
Dingell	McCauley	
Dunn	Mitchell	

□ 1903

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragan (Beyer)	Costa (Cooper)	Frankel (Clark)
Bera (Aguiar)	Cunningham	(MA)
Bonamici (Clark)	(Murphy (FL))	Garamendi
(MA)	Dean (Scanlon)	(Sherman)
Brownley (CA)	DeSaulnier	Grijalva (Garcia)
(Clark (MA))	(Matsui)	(IL)
Cárdenas	Deutch (Rice	Hastings
(Cisneros)	(NY))	(Wasserman
Cohen (Beyer)	Doggett (Raskin)	Schultz)

Jayapal (Raskin)	Mucarsel-Powell	Ruiz (Dingell)
Johnson (TX)	(Wasserman	Rush
(Jeffries)	Schultz)	(Underwood)
Kim (Davids	Nadler (Jeffries)	Schneider
(KS))	Napolitano	(Casten (IL))
Kind (Beyer)	(Correa)	Schrier
Kirkpatrick	Pascarell	(DelBene)
(Stanton)	(Pallone)	Serrano
Kuster (NH)	Payne	(Jeffries)
(Clark (MA))	(Wasserman	Titus (Connolly)
Lamb (Crow)	Schultz)	Tlaib (Dingell)
Lawson (FL)	Peters (Kildee)	Trahan
(Demings)	Peterson (Craig)	(McGovern)
Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Pingree	Vargas (Correa)
(Cicilline)	(Pocan (Raskin)	Velázquez
Logfren (Jeffries)	Porter (Wexton)	(Clarke (NY))
Lowenthal	Price (NC)	Watson Coleman
(Beyer)	(Butterfield)	(Pallone)
Lowey (Tonko)	Richmond	Welch
McEachin	(Wexton)	(McGovern)
(Butterfield)	Meng (Clark	Rouda (Aguilar)
(MA))	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Moore (Beyer)	(Garcia (TX))	(Hayes)

IDENTIFYING OUTPUTS OF GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS ACT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2904) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2904

*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 "Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act" or the "IOGAN Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Gaps currently exist on the underlying research needed to develop tools that detect videos, audio files, or photos that have manipulated or synthesized content, including those generated by generative adversarial networks. Research on digital forensics is also needed to identify, preserve, recover, and analyze the provenance of digital artifacts.

(2) The National Science Foundation's focus to support research in artificial intelligence through computer and information science and engineering, cognitive science and psychology, economics and game theory, control theory, linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy, is building a better understanding of how new technologies are shaping the society and economy of the United States.

(3) The National Science Foundation has identified the "10 Big Ideas for NSF Future Investment" including "Harnessing the Data Revolution" and the "Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier", with artificial intelligence is a critical component.

(4) The outputs generated by generative adversarial networks should be included under the umbrella of research described in

paragraph (3) given the grave national security and societal impact potential of such networks.

(5) Generative adversarial networks are not likely to be utilized as the sole technique of artificial intelligence or machine learning capable of creating credible deepfakes. Other techniques may be developed in the future to produce similar outputs.

**SEC. 3. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT AND INFORMATION SECURITY.**

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on manipulated or synthesized content and information authenticity, which may include—

(1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of information and detection of manipulated or synthesized content, including content generated by generative adversarial networks;

(2) fundamental research on technical tools for identifying manipulated or synthesized content, such as watermarking systems for generated media;

(3) social and behavioral research related to manipulated or synthesized content, including human engagement with the content;

(4) research on public understanding and awareness of manipulated and synthesized content, including research on best practices for educating the public to discern authenticity of digital content; and

(5) research awards coordinated with other federal agencies and programs, including the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency, with coordination enabled by the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program.

**SEC. 4. NIST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND STANDARDS ON GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research for the development of measurements and standards necessary to accelerate the development of the technological tools to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

(b) OUTREACH.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct outreach—

(1) to receive input from private, public, and academic stakeholders on fundamental measurements and standards research necessary to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks; and

(2) to consider the feasibility of an ongoing public and private sector engagement to develop voluntary standards for the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DETECT MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,

Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the Directors' findings with respect to the feasibility for research opportunities with the private sector, including digital media companies to detect the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content; and

(2) any policy recommendations of the Directors that could facilitate and improve communication and coordination between the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and relevant Federal agencies through the implementation of innovative approaches to detect digital content produced by generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

**SEC. 6. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK DEFINED.**

In this Act, the term "generative adversarial network" means, with respect to artificial intelligence, the machine learning process of attempting to cause a generator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as the "generator" and a discriminator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as a "discriminator") to compete against each other to become more accurate in their function and outputs, through which the generator and discriminator create a feedback loop, causing the generator to produce increasingly higher-quality artificial outputs and the discriminator to increasingly improve in detecting such artificial outputs.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH RESPECT TO THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GUIDE THE NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; the Committee on Education and Labor; the Committee on Oversight and Reform; the Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1250, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1250

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) In general, artificial intelligence is the ability of a computer system to solve problems and to perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence.

(2) Artificial intelligence will transform the nature of work and nearly all aspects of the United States economy.

(3) Artificial intelligence will have immense implications for the security of the United States and its allies and partners.

(4) Investments made by the United States Government will be instrumental in the research and development of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabling technologies, as it has been for many of the world's revolutionary technologies.

(5) Developing and using artificial intelligence in ways that are ethical, reduce bias, promote fairness, and protect privacy is essential for fostering a positive effect on society consistent with core United States values.

(6) The Obama Administration released the Big Data Research and Development Initiative in 2012, Executive Order 13702 (relating to creating a national strategic computing initiative) in 2015, and the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan in 2016.

(7) The Trump Administration released Executive Order 13859 (relating to maintaining American leadership in artificial intelligence), updated the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan in 2019, and released Office of Management and Budget guidance for regulation of artificial intelligence applications in 2020.

(8) In May 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adopted the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence, which included the principles of inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being, human-centered values and fairness, transparency and explainability, robustness, security and safety, and accountability.

(9) In February 2020, the European Commission began a consultation process with the release of their white paper "On Artificial Intelligence - A European approach to excellence and trust", which set out policy options for a coordinated European approach to artificial intelligence regulation.

(10) In June 2020, the G7 and several partners launched the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to increase cooperation focused around the areas of responsible artificial intelligence, data governance, the future of work, and innovation and commercialization.

(11) Several United States allies, including Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, and South Korea, have published national artificial intelligence strategies with detailed funding commitments.

(12) In 2017, China published a national artificial intelligence strategy that detailed the Chinese Communist Party's goal to become the world's primary artificial intelligence innovation center by 2030.

(13) In 2019, Russia published a national artificial intelligence strategy and, in 2017, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that "whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world".

(14) In 2018, the Subcommittee on Information Technology of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, under the leadership of Chairman Will Hurd and Ranking Member Robin Kelly, published "Rise of the Machines: Artificial Intelligence and its Growing Impact on U.S. Policy" following a series of hearings on artificial intelligence with experts from academia, industry, and government, concluding that "the United States cannot maintain its global leadership in artificial intelligence absent political leadership from Congress and the Executive Branch".

(15) Congress serves a critical role in establishing national priorities, funding scientific research and development, supporting

emerging technologies, and sustaining cooperation with our allies to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY PRINCIPLES.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the following principles should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States:

- (1) Global leadership.
- (2) A prepared workforce.
- (3) National security.
- (4) Effective research and development.
- (5) Ethics, reduced bias, fairness, and privacy.

#### SEC. 2. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP.

It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should take a global leadership role in artificial intelligence.

#### SEC. 3. WORKFORCE PREPARATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Artificial intelligence and automation will present significant challenges to workers in affected industries due to the automating of some routine and repetitive tasks, but will also create additional employment opportunities.

(2) Closing the artificial intelligence talent gap in the short and medium-term will require a targeted approach to identifying and filling roles that require the skills to build and work with artificial intelligence systems.

(3) The United States should take a leadership role in the artificial intelligence-driven economy by filling the artificial intelligence talent gap and preparing United States workers for the jobs of the future, including by prioritizing inclusivity and equal opportunity.

(4) Departments and agencies of the Federal Government are increasingly using data to administer benefits, assess outcomes, and fulfill other mission-critical activities.

(5) Effectively creating, managing, and implementing artificial intelligence related research and development grants will require technical expertise.

(6) Departments and agencies of the Federal Government will need to be able to recruit employees with technical expertise.

(7) Lifelong learning and skill acquisition can increase flexibility with respect to career opportunities.

(8) The United States will need to be able to attract the best artificial intelligence researchers and computer scientists from around the world to work in the United States.

(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—

(1) EDUCATION.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the national competitiveness of the United States in artificial intelligence would benefit from—

(A) increased funding for Federal programs that support science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science education;

(B) grant programs that continue funding the integration of ethics courses and modules into science, engineering, and computer science curricula;

(C) new education programs of study related to artificial intelligence that incorporate industry-recognized credentials, including certifications and certificates, embedded within secondary and postsecondary degree programs; and

(D) continued support for teacher preparation programs that increase the number of teachers with the ability to teach science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science education.

(2) PROMOTING DIVERSITY.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) the inclusion of students from historically under-represented groups in existing technology education programs would benefit a diverse artificial intelligence workforce; and

(B) recruitment and retention policies with respect to under-represented communities and marginalized groups in the Federal workforce should be reviewed for the purpose of determining if such policies require modification for technology workers.

(3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should assess the effectiveness of current public workforce development programs with respect to the additional support such programs will need to effectively address job disruptions and job creations that result from the increased use of artificial intelligence.

(B) WORK-BASED LEARNING AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should support the adoption of work-based learning and on-the-job training programs to prepare the United States workforce for an artificial intelligence-influenced economy, including by—

(i) undertaking studies to determine best practices to implement such programs; and

(ii) ensuring that there is sufficient Federal funding to support high-quality programs that coordinate with Federal workforce development programs.

(4) FEDERAL HIRING PRACTICES.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should—

(A) allow technical experts to use their skills to assist multiple departments and agencies of the Federal Government, such as the United States Digital Service;

(B) focus on the retention of non-partisan experts within the Federal Government who are working to modernize Federal information technology;

(C) include in the criteria for recruiting for artificial intelligence jobs the consideration of a multi-disciplinary set of skills, including an understanding of ethical practices with respect to the design and use of artificial intelligence systems, privacy, information security, law, and civil liberties;

(D) review hiring practices for employment in the Federal Government for the purpose of ensuring that such practices do not disqualify individuals with a less traditional background, including due to a lack of undergraduate or graduate degree attainment, who have skills that will benefit work in artificial intelligence systems management and research and development; and

(E) conduct studies with respect to best practices for skills-based hiring.

#### SEC. 4. NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Artificial intelligence will have immense implications for national and international security.

(2) Artificial intelligence tools and systems can augment human intelligence through human-machine collaboration and teaming across the national security ecosystem.

(3) Ensuring that the public trusts the ability of the military to ethically use artificial intelligence and that human operators in human-machine teams trust the artificial intelligence will be critical factors with respect to the successful implementation of artificial intelligence systems.

(4) The continued proliferation of national artificial intelligence strategies, plans, statements, and investments demonstrates the increase in global competition in this area.

(5) New paradigms will be required to effectively test artificial intelligence and to ensure that it is reliable and stable.

(6) Export and investment controls will be important policy tools to prevent the acquisition of sensitive artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabling technologies, including hardware such as semiconductors and semiconductor manufacturing equipment, by China, Russia, and other adversaries.

(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—

(1) COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should—

(A) leverage its alliances to promote democratic principles, foster research collaboration, and develop common standards with respect to artificial intelligence;

(B) promote the interoperability of artificial intelligence for the purpose of strengthening alliances;

(C) along with allies, take a leading role in international forums to set artificial intelligence principles, norms, and standards; and

(D) undertake efforts to engage with China and Russia with respect to—

(i) shared concerns about artificial intelligence safety; and

(ii) confidence-building by establishing crisis communications procedures designed to reduce the likelihood of unintentional use and the risk of escalation with respect to artificial intelligence systems.

(2) FOREIGN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that national security agencies should consider conditions-based and capabilities-based approaches when evaluating global artificial intelligence capabilities.

(3) DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that national security agencies should—

(A) collaborate with experts in academia, the private sector, and other departments and agencies of the Federal Government to develop best practices for testing, evaluation, validation, and verification of artificial intelligence systems;

(B) devote agency resources, including investing in research, for the purpose of promoting trustworthiness with respect to human-machine teams;

(C) engage with experts to develop guidelines for the ethical development and use of artificial intelligence systems; and

(D) prioritize the development of artificial intelligence systems to cover non-critical tasks until such systems can achieve suitable standards of reliability, interoperability, and security.

(4) EXPORT AND INVESTMENT CONTROLS.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should collaborate with its allies to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence systems by China, Russia, and other adversaries.

#### SEC. 5. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Federal funding plays an important role in research and development.

(2) Federal research and development investments need to be significantly increased to ensure United States leadership in artificial intelligence.

(3) Federally supported research will play an important role in supporting artificial intelligence techniques that are critical to United States artificial intelligence leadership, including by exploring novel techniques that leverage smaller data sets to train artificial intelligence systems and making more efficient use of computing resources.

(4) Artificial intelligence advances are enabled by Federal research and development

investments in other technology sectors because United States economic competitiveness and national security will depend on strong capabilities across a range of technologies.

(5) Computing power is essential to progress in artificial intelligence development, and the amount of computing power required for artificial intelligence training runs is increasing exponentially.

(6) A new wave of technological advances could be fostered by combining and increasing access to government-owned and government-funded computing and data resources.

(7) Expanding access to digital infrastructure, such as broadband, will be essential to creating new job opportunities and stimulating the growth of new technology and innovation clusters to support United States leadership in artificial intelligence.

(8) Incentivizing research and development across the private sector, particularly from smaller companies, will further strengthen the United States innovation ecosystem.

(9) The United States is an attractive research and development partner because it is home to world-class universities, research institutes, and corporations.

(10) Decades of experience show that joint work with foreign researchers can be done with great benefit and little detriment to United States economic and national security with the implementation of proper safeguards.

(11) Artificial intelligence standards and measurement are essential to fostering artificial intelligence technologies that are safe, secure, reliable, and comport with the norms and values of the United States.

(12) Metrics are how the artificial intelligence research community guides itself and prioritizes research.

(13) Benchmark tests are necessary to understand the performance of an artificial intelligence system.

(14) Current tests for measuring artificial intelligence range from vague and conceptual to well-defined and mature.

(15) Artificial intelligence measurement methodologies are not static and will require periodic reexaminations and updates of testing methodologies to ensure that artificial intelligence systems are functioning according to best-known practices.

(16) United States leadership in global artificial intelligence standards-setting will help ensure that artificial intelligence implementations are in accordance with United States strengths and comport with the interests and values of the United States.

(17) Public engagement is necessary for developing voluntary consensus standards, guidelines, and frameworks to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.

(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—

(1) FEDERAL FUNDING.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should increase investments in artificial intelligence research and development and related fields.

(2) COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that departments and agencies of the Federal Government should collaborate—

(A) with the private sector, civil society, and academia—

(i) to ensure that the United States innovation ecosystem leads the world in artificial intelligence research and development; and

(ii) to develop voluntary consensus standards, guidelines, and frameworks that will help create shared conceptual foundations, terminology, and best practices for artificial intelligence fairness and bias mitigation; and

(B) with science funding organizations in like-minded countries to establish multilat-

eral teams of artificial intelligence researchers from the public and private sectors to promote additional talent development and foster partnerships on artificial intelligence research and development.

(3) EXPANDING DIGITAL ACCESS.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should—

(A) expand access to broadband in rural and underserved areas;

(B) expand the availability of affordable graphics processing units and high-performance computers in rural and underserved areas;

(C) improve digital infrastructure in the United States; and

(D) make data created by federally-funded scientific and technical research publicly available with appropriate privacy protections to provide artificial intelligence researchers with new data sets to train their systems.

(4) NATIONAL COMPUTING AND DATA RESOURCE.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should consider establishing a national computing and data resource.

(5) ACCESS TO NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that the existing supercomputing labs at the national laboratories and technology centers of the Department of Energy should expand opportunities for academics and researchers to access such labs for artificial intelligence research and research related to artificial intelligence.

(6) TAX INCENTIVES.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should examine whether targeted incentives and reforms to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 would increase private sector research and development, particularly with respect to small cap corporations.

**SEC. 6. ETHICS, REDUCED BIAS, FAIRNESS, AND PRIVACY.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) The rise of artificial intelligence has great potential to improve quality of life for individuals in the United States, provided it is developed and used in a manner that is ethical, reduces bias, promotes fairness, and protects privacy.

(2) A diverse artificial intelligence workforce is important for mitigating bias.

(3) The United States is uniquely positioned to leverage its diverse workforce to lead in artificial intelligence.

(4) The starting point for Federal oversight of artificial intelligence should be to review existing regulatory frameworks.

(5) Regulatory sandboxes, in general, refer to regulatory structures where a participant obtains limited or temporary access to a market in exchange for reduced regulatory uncertainty, and can be used to test a product designed to mitigate unintended bias or promote fairness in a small-scale environment and under the supervision of regulators.

(6) Federal programs should have necessary safeguards and oversight processes.

(7) Artificial intelligence regulatory approaches should consider the level of risk associated with different artificial intelligence applications.

(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—

(1) BIAS MITIGATION.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that departments and agencies of the Federal Government should—

(A) support technical and non-technical research and development to address potential bias, fairness, and privacy issues in artificial intelligence;

(B) improve access to a broad range of non-sensitive government data assets to help train artificial intelligence systems;

(C) implement title II of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-435; 132 Stat. 5529);

(D) develop policies to identify the data used to train artificial intelligence algorithms as well as data analyzed by artificial intelligence algorithms and systems in use by departments and agencies; and

(E) further develop and release to the public available benchmark data assets with the proper safeguards to protect privacy, mitigate bias, and promote inclusivity.

(2) REGULATION AND LEGISLATION REVIEW.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that congressional committees should—

(A) review the range of existing Federal regulations and laws that potentially apply to artificial intelligence;

(B) determine which laws apply to artificial intelligence;

(C) determine if any gaps in appropriate legislation and regulation exist and how such gaps could be addressed;

(D) advance Federal privacy reforms that build trust, prevent harm, and maintain United States global leadership in artificial intelligence; and

(E) conduct regular oversight of artificial intelligence policies in the executive branch within their jurisdiction.

(3) FEDERAL FUNDING.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should support funding for departments and agencies of the Federal Government interested in adopting programs, including regulatory sandboxes, for the purposes of testing artificial intelligence tools in limited markets.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING JOHNNY BLAKELY

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades-long service of a public servant who embodies what makes Tennessee the Volunteer State, Mr. Johnny Blakely.

After 18 years faithfully representing the Congressman for Tennessee's Seventh District, Johnny will begin his next chapter of life in the new year.

For 24 years, he served on the school board, including 17 years as chairman. Johnny also served as vice mayor of his hometown.

He and Linda, his charming wife of 56 years, have three children—Ross, Lora, and Jeremy—and seven grandchildren.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to congratulate Johnny Blakely on his retirement and express our gratitude for his 18 years of service to Tennessee's Seventh District.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades-long service of a public servant who embodies what makes Tennessee the Volunteer State, Mr. Johnny Blakely.

After 18 years faithfully representing the member of Congress for Tennessee's Seventh District, Johnny will begin his next chapter of life in the new year.

Johnny grew up in McNairy County in west Tennessee, where his mother diligently raised a family of five while also working in the local shoe factory. After a thirty-five year career at

AT&T, he joined then-Congressman MARSHA BLACKBURN's office. When I was elected to Congress, he agreed to postpone retirement to continue serving our district for two more years.

Johnny has been the invaluable link between the work we do in congress and the local communities in the district by being a resource for constituents and community leaders and listening to the concerns and challenges facing rural Tennesseans.

Johnny understands the challenges of our community leaders because he himself has been one throughout his life. For 24 years, he served on the McNairy County Board of Education, including 17 years as chairman. During this time, the Board of Education oversaw two multi-million-dollar building projects in the county. In 1992, he was selected to serve on the All Tennessee School Board. Johnny also served as Vice Mayor of his beloved hometown, Ramer.

Johnny and Linda, his ceaselessly charming wife of 56 years, have three children—Ross, Lora, and Jeremy—and seven grandchildren. Johnny has always sought to put his family first and he is proud of everything that his children and grandchildren have accomplished. He and his family are longtime members of Ramer Baptist Church, where he has served many years as an Ordained Deacon, Music Director, and Sunday School Teacher.

Johnny has done an outstanding job serving the people of Tennessee and this nation through his volunteer work and his professional career of public service, and it has been an honor and a privilege to have him as a member of my staff.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I'm proud to congratulate Johnny Blakely on his retirement and to express our gratitude for his lifelong commitment to his community and his 18 years of faithful and diligent service to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

#### CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today's passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, as amended by the Senate, marks a new chapter for a critical infrastructure project that is very important to the residents of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

The Williamsport levee, located in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in the heart of PA-12, is in dire need of repair to protect the livelihoods of local residents and businesses.

The flood zone behind the 20-mile levee system is responsible for nearly 87 percent of Lycoming County's economic activity. This area employs more than half of the region's workforce and is home to 24 of the county's 50 largest employers.

This bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out a feasibility study of the imminent threat the levee poses to Lycoming County's residents and economy. This study is a precursor to construction and funding for the levee and represents an important

step toward addressing this critical infrastructure need.

I will continue to do everything in my power to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize this project. Today, we take an important step forward in our community's collective effort to get this infrastructure project across the finish line, and for that, I am grateful.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CHUCK YEAGER

(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, it is with great sadness that I rise to recognize the loss of a very great American, Brigadier General Chuck Yeager, who passed last evening. He and his wife, Victoria, are constituents of ours in Nevada County in our district in northern California.

Truly, he was an American icon. He inspired the world to push farther and faster and to push the envelope, as they say, a man I was honored to call a friend.

He grew up in West Virginia, a country boy hunting and fishing the hills where he lived. He entered World War II and became one of the greatest pilots that we would know. He had an amazing 20/10 vision that helped him to see enemy aircraft sooner than the rest of his colleagues or the enemy could see ours.

His exploits in the sky continued after World War II, when he was the first man to break the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 aircraft.

Indeed, he was an amazing gentleman. He was a determined man with a lot of grit, provided a lot of help advancing the aviation situation in this country, even just a few years ago, exceeding the sound barrier once again.

He had a straight and dry sense of humor. He didn't have a whole lot of use for politicians. I was lucky to be able to count him as a friend, not as a politician but as more of a neighbor.

We will grieve this man and we will grieve his loss, because they don't make very many like Chuck Yeager. Indeed, he will be irreplaceable.

God bless him and his family.

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESSWOMAN ROBY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we will, in short time, remember our friend Paul Sarbanes, but another friend of mine, whom I have not known as long but I have known well, is the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Alabama, with whom I went on the pilgrimage sponsored by Faith and Politics and led by

our beloved John Lewis. She welcomed us so graciously to Montgomery.

She is a graduate of NYU, a graduate of Stanford Law School, and is extraordinarily proud of her father, the chief judge of the court of appeals of their circuit. Her husband, Riley, and their two children I have known, and they have joined us.

Regrettably, she will be leaving the Congress at the end of this year. I say regrettably because she was a Member of Congress who worked across the aisle and who worked positively and constructively on behalf of her district, on behalf of her State, and on behalf of her country. We will miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama.

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Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend, for yielding.

Thank you so much, Leader HOYER, I just appreciate your friendship all these years. I really do appreciate the time you have given me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you and my colleagues here today to speak for my final time on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, 17 years ago, my husband, Riley, and I prayerfully decided I would put my name on the ballot for the first time. Never could we have imagined that that original decision to run for the Montgomery City Council would lead us to serve five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We are so grateful that God allowed us to serve our country in this way, and we give all honor and glory to Him. I count it a great privilege to have served the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District over the past decade, and I cannot adequately express how deeply thankful I am for the confidence my constituents have placed in me over the years.

Each of you sitting here before me knows the responsibility that comes along with being a Member of Congress. Yes, we are required to vote and to be the conscience of those we represent, but serving our constituents back home truly changes lives in our communities for the better.

As I look back on the wonderful things Team Roby was able to accomplish, along with the help of my colleagues in the Alabama delegation, I realized that our most significant duty is to help those who need us. Whether it is requesting assistance with the VA or another Federal agency, assisting with cleanup following a large-scale weather event, voicing an opinion, or booking tours of the U.S. Capitol, my doors have always remained open to each person I represent.

I am thankful for the unique opportunities given to me by those who came before me, especially the chance to serve on several impactful committees, including Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Select Committee on Benghazi. Much

work has been done in each of these revered committees to impact the lives of my constituents, and for that, I am forever grateful.

I have been asked many times over the past few months what will I miss the most upon my departure, and my answer has remained the same—the relationships.

The genuine friendships formed with my colleagues, my constituents, and so many others over the years, and interacting with these individuals on a daily basis is what I will truly miss the most. For many, this past year was and continues to be very challenging. We have all experienced plenty of unfamiliar hardships. Not only has the global health pandemic taken center stage, but America is marked by intense division and polarization. Every time you turn on the television, you see a depiction of disunity amongst the American people. I imagine many Americans struggle to believe that friendship can actually exist within the Halls of Congress.

It is incumbent upon us, Members of Congress, to join forces and work together to get things done for the good of the American people. When we reach across the aisle and work with the other side to arrive at a compromise for the benefit of those we serve, we are truly at our best. I believe the American people are starving to see bipartisanship in action, especially during this time of much suffering and uncertainty. People want to know their leaders are working together for the common good and not just shouting each other down.

My greatest hope and prayer moving forward is that all Members of Congress—new and old—regardless of party identification, beliefs, or opinions, will come together and work toward a common goal to deliver real results for the American people. I have faith in this institution, and I have faith in each of you.

Now, I want to especially thank the people of the Second District. It is your faith and trust in me as your representative that helped me every step of the way. I am honored to have been given this incredibly unique opportunity, and I thank you for letting me be your voice in Congress.

Together, we have been able to deliver some incredible results for our military, veterans, agricultural community, and the unborn. While we made much progress together, the fight is not finished.

I want to thank my Congressional colleagues for your kindness and friendship throughout the years. Not too far into my time in Congress, I woke up realizing that the people I served with had become some of my very best friends. I am confident these relationships will continue, and I will certainly miss our time spent together having conversations about our families and encouraging one another.

I want to thank my incredible staff, all former and present Members of

Team Roby, for your hard work on behalf of the people of Alabama and our country. I know all Members say this, but I truly believe I have the greatest staff in the world. I would never be able to execute this job without the dedication and support of my staff. They have worked tirelessly to serve the people of the Second District. We have a special saying on our team: “Once Team Roby, always Team Roby.”

And lastly, I thank my husband, Riley, and our two children, Margaret and George, my parents, the Robys, and our entire village for supporting our decision to serve our country. Your steadfast love and constant support have carried us through the easy and the hard times, and I love each of you dearly.

On behalf of Riley, Margaret, George, and myself, we sincerely thank all of you who made our service to our country in the great State of Alabama possible and those who offered their services along the way.

Thank you, and for the very last time, I yield back.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for every Member of the House, particularly those of us who have had the privilege of knowing MARTHA ROBY well and spending time with her, she is a decent and good representative. She is a wonderful representative of her State, and she has made this House a little better, and this country a little better, and we thank her for her service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR PAUL  
SARBANES

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we were saddened to learn the other night when JOHN called me and told me that his father had passed away. JOHN SARBANES, of course, is our colleague. He told me of the passing of a wonderful human being, with a great intellect, a wonderful wit, a sense of decency, great integrity and a sense of country, Paul Sarbanes.

He was a gifted legislator, a wise adviser to all who sought his council. He brought great courage to his efforts for the people and great compassion for all who struggled to survive and succeed in their pursuit of happiness. I know that all of us serving in this House expresses our heartfelt condolences to his entire family, including his son, our colleague, JOHN SARBANES, a son of whom his father was extraordinarily proud.

I went with JOHN to see his dad not so long ago, and I was so glad I took the opportunity when I was in Baltimore to see him. A number of us had a wonderful opportunity to serve with Senator Sarbanes in the Congress. I had the privilege of serving with him for 4 years in the Maryland General Assembly and for 30 years in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, my friendship with Paul went back to the time when we were elected to the Maryland General Assembly in the same freshman class of 1966, before you were born, or close.

Paul was elected to the House, and I was elected to the State Senate. Over the years, we came to look differently at which body was more important. He originally served in the House in Maryland, and I served in the Senate. We changed our perspective on which was the most important body.

Serving together in the Maryland Congressional Delegation, we continued our partnership working for the people of our State and standing up for the principles we shared. And Paul was, at his core, a man of principle. Raised with the ethics of his immigrant parents, the foundation of his Greek Orthodox faith, and the values of his Baltimore neighborhood.

Paul believed his first responsibility as a legislator was to ensure that government was always accountable to the people it served. He never wavered in that mission. When he saw evidence of the destruction of justice by President Nixon, he was the first to file Articles of Impeachment.

In the Senate, he was an architect of what is now known as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which sought to protect investors from fraud in our financial markets, and to protect consumers as well. Transparency, accountability, and ethics were the watchwords of Paul Sarbanes.

He was also a champion for a cleaner and healthier Chesapeake Bay. He understood that the bay is one of Maryland's and America's greatest treasures and most extraordinary asset.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to partner with him on efforts to protect the bay, as well as on so many other issues important to our State, including robust investment in education, protecting and enhancing civil rights, and making quality healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Paul Sarbanes will be remembered as a man of substance and principle, of decency and warmth, of insight and vision. He left an indelible mark on this institution in which he served, and on the millions of people in Maryland and across our country, whose lives he enriched.

As dean of the Maryland Delegation, it is my honor to open this hour of tribute and to yield to my friend and colleague, his son, of whom, as I said, he was so very proud, and we share his father's pride in his service in this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for yielding. I thank you for your friendship with my father, Paul Sarbanes, for so many years. You go back with him a long way, and he cherished that friendship, as he did the relationship with all the members of the Maryland Delegation during the time that he served.

I thank my colleagues here tonight who have come to help remember him and pay tribute.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my brother, Michael, and my sister, Janet, I thank

all the people who, over the last 48 hours, have been sending in these remembrances and tributes to my father from his time in the Senate, and before that, here in the House where he was for 6 years, and for time periods before that, even.

I want to thank right up front, and in particular, his staff, who over the course of his 40 years in public service he understood were the ones that made him or broke him. He was a tough taskmaster, but he chose people that had that same set of principles and values and commitment to hard work. A lot of the tributes that have been coming in have talked about him being a workhorse, not a show horse. The idea that you put your head down, you get the job done, you try to build consensus where you can, but you always remember that you are here for a reason, that is to make good, strong policy that can help people.

He lived a full life, he made a difference in the lives of others, which is all he ever wanted to do. He knew he wanted to be in politics from a very early age, but his motivation was in looking at the opportunities that he had, the son of Greek immigrants who came to this country with very little, and he had the opportunity for education and advancement. His motivation was to make those available to others.

He loved being with people. He had a dry sense of humor. He enjoyed bantering with all who crossed his path, was intensely interested in the journey that others had taken to whatever station they held in life. And he was always asking: "Where are you from?" "What do you do?" "What is next for you?"

He had an inherent integrity that was strengthened by always striving to meet the expectations of those who put their confidence in him.

In politics, he was motivated, as I said, by the burning conviction that every individual has dignity and the potential to succeed if given a fair shot, and he was determined others would have those same opportunities that he had enjoyed.

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He understood that if you share the credit, if you don't seek credit, you get a lot more done. That was how he operated.

A few years ago, I prevailed upon him to sit for about 20 hours of videotaped oral history because I wanted to make sure we captured the essence of his life and his career. So, we have this treasure, which we will make available to people as we move forward. I wanted, in his own words, to grab a few excerpts from that, that I think convey who he is and what he cared about.

I remember I came home one time, and he was sitting in the living room on the couch, and he was revved up about something. I don't know what the issue was that day that had gotten him sort of motivated. But he banged

on the side of the couch, and he said: "I am for the little guy. I am for the little guy." He might as well, in that moment, have been stating his purpose in public life. That is what motivated him from the moment he got up in the morning until the moment he went to bed at night.

I am going to read a couple of these things from his oral history. He talked about getting public housing, senior citizen affordable housing, in the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. He was very proud of the fact that you had this senior citizen housing there.

He said: "Next door to it is an expensive hotel, and behind the hotel is a big condominium building with very expensive condominiums in it. Every time I go by that building, I get a sense of satisfaction out of it, particularly in the nice weather. I look up, and all of these seniors are sitting out on their terraces, looking out over the water.

"I know the developers would give their eyeteeth to get ahold of that piece of property, but they don't have it. It is part of this affordable housing initiative, so a lot of seniors who worked hard all their lives and are now retired but don't have a lot of money have the benefit of this housing."

He said: "I always get a measure of satisfaction out of that."

We are in the midst, as we know, in our country of some really challenging moments addressing issues of justice. Here is a story about how my father, in a small way, made a statement around justice.

He said: "We had a situation in one of the rural towns on the Eastern Shore, and when they delivered the mail, the postman, he would come down the street here, and there would be these big houses, and he would go up to the house and put the mail in the mailbox. And then as he moved on down the street, the composition of the neighborhood would change, and the houses would get smaller, much smaller.

"The complexion of the people living in the houses changed, too, as you went down the street, so they went from White to Black. And down the street, instead of the postman going through the gate or whatever and up to the house, they were going to require those people to put a postbox at the street. So, some people came to us about that, a couple of pastors or ministers, and they pointed out this situation.

"So, I got the postal people in for a meeting in my office," my father said. "Now, what is happening here? As I understand it, up here with the big houses and the White residents, you are going to continue to go up to the house and put the mail through the door slot. But when you get down this way to the little houses and the African-American residents, you are going to require them to put a mail receptacle out at the pavement or at the curb, and you are not going to go up to the house anymore. What is the rationale for this policy?"

"Well, of course, if you lay it out like that, there isn't a rationale, at least not an acceptable one that can withstand the light of day. So, they dropped the project and went on delivering the mail."

Here is what my father said: "That is the way it ought to work. And I felt it is not a big issue, but we got some justice done for those people."

Small things that stand for big principles, that is what he was about.

I am going to close with just a couple of final thoughts here. First of all, I want to thank the Greek-American community, which was fiercely proud of my father's achievements. He was deeply proud of where he came from. It was an inspiration to him in public service. I want to thank so many who helped him along the way from that community.

My mother, Christine, who died 10 years ago, she came into his life like a bolt of lightning. He didn't know what hit him. He met her at Oxford, this brilliant, beautiful woman who could match him step for step in her intellect, and she knocked his socks off.

I think the great regret of his life was that he had hoped in his retirement—you know, public life is hard. We know that. I think all along the way, he was looking forward to that time when the two of them could spend more time together. Unfortunately, she passed away within a couple of years of his retirement, and they didn't get that opportunity together. I don't think he ever fully recovered from that.

I think about his legacy, and I understand, certainly, that there is no way his children—myself; my brother, Michael; and my sister, Janet—are ever going to match that legacy because it is a pretty unmatched one when you look at the record. But I think we are all doing what we can to continue it, to nurture it, to sustain it going forward.

Again, I thank you for the time to speak here, and I thank my colleagues for all of your support and kind words over the last couple of days.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the son of a great man, who that great man would say is a great son. He loved JOHN, but he respected JOHN. He believed that JOHN was enhancing the Sarbanes legacy, and he was right.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, with the expectation that Mr. TRONE from our State will continue to recognize other Members from our delegation who want to speak.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR PAUL SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER).

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Senator Paul Sarbanes, a titan of Maryland politics and a man I considered a mentor during my time as Baltimore County Executive.

JOHN, those were very warm comments that you gave about your father, to be here as a Member of Congress and to make those comments. I know your father is looking down and is very proud of you and his whole family. It is a moment that we will never forget.

Anyone who values government accountability and integrity, anyone who loves or lives off of the Chesapeake Bay, is benefiting from the service of Senator Paul Sarbanes.

Though his legislative style was often described as quiet and unassuming, the accomplishments of Senator SARBANES were bold and groundbreaking. He will go down as one of the Chesapeake Bay's fiercest stewards in history.

In the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, he pioneered legislation that continues to protect consumers today. From Watergate to Iran-Contra to Whitewater, he fought government corruption. He was a man of integrity and decency.

He didn't have a soapbox. He had sense. He led with respect, not rhetoric.

Over the course of his three decades of public service, Senator SARBANES showed us what we can achieve when taking credit just isn't a priority.

Today, we celebrate the legacy Senator SARBANES has left for our future generations.

I know Senator Sarbanes was very proud of his son JOHN's work here in the United States Congress and also his son Michael's work on behalf of the Baltimore City Schools and his daughter, Janet Sarbanes, who is an accomplished writer.

We will always remember Senator SARBANES.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by saying, John, I always believed that you can tell a lot about a person by the children they raise. If I knew nothing else about your father than what I see in you, I know your father is a great man because you yourself are a great man. While you may think that you will never match your father's accomplishments, he believed and already knew that you have.

I was in many public events in the presence of you and your father, and I would watch him as he was watching you. It was so clear and obvious the pride that he took in you, as I know he did in his other children, knowing that you were stepping in his footsteps, continuing his legacy and his work for the people of Maryland.

So, JOHN, you have more than matched the matchless efforts of your father.

I want to recognize Leader HOYER for hosting this Special Order hour this

evening. I want to, again, thank my friend and colleague, Representative JOHN SARBANES, and his entire family, who have experienced a great loss.

Over his extraordinary life, Paul Sarbanes held many titles: husband and father, Maryland delegate, Congressman, Senator, chairman.

Throughout his decades on Capitol Hill, Paul Sarbanes never lost sight that he was a family man first. Second only to that, he was a true and dedicated public servant.

Senator Sarbanes worked for Maryland. He was a tireless advocate for our State and the many families who call Maryland home. They knew Paul Sarbanes had their backs. Upon news of his death, so many of his constituents fondly remembered how he was there for him and provided a helping hand.

Paul Sarbanes didn't approach service with bravado and bombast. He didn't crave the spotlight because he understood the people he served were in his spotlight because they were his priority.

He was a master legislator and deft committee questioner. Senator SARBANES actively shaped legislation that still affects Marylanders and Americans today.

He championed the restoration of our beloved Chesapeake Bay. He put consumer protections front and center in his work, cracking down on corporate fraud. He held Presidents accountable during the Watergate hearings and throughout his career. His work and relationships on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee helped create a safer world.

The example he set continues to inspire so many leaders and public servants in Maryland to put the work and the people first.

I first met Paul Sarbanes when I moved to Maryland in 1992. I attended one of his townhalls he had at Prince George's Community College. I knew nothing of the Senator at the time, and I listened to him address the concerns and the issues of my neighbors, his constituents.

While Paul Sarbanes was not necessarily known for or recognized among his many accomplishments for leading in the areas of national security and military issues—although he was on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and very effective—what I saw in him was a profound appreciation for the men and women who served in uniform. He had great respect for those men and women who took that uniform off and continued as veterans to make a contribution to our community.

That was my first impression and the most lasting impression that I had of Paul Sarbanes. He loved the men and women who served this country, and he deeply respected their service, even when they took off the uniform.

Senator Sarbanes was understated, and that was by design. But his work, life, and legacy speak for themselves.

To JOHN, Michael, Janet, and the entire Sarbanes family, I send my deepest

condolences for your loss. My prayers are with you, as we remember your father, this remarkable man and public servant, Senator Paul Sarbanes.

□ 1945

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TRONE for yielding, and I want to thank our distinguished majority leader for sponsoring this special hour devoted to honoring the great Senator Sarbanes.

Along with Senator MIKULSKI, Senator SARBANES was the first Senator I ever had. And because he served for 30 years in office, he was actually my Senator for most of my life already. He will always be, in my mind, the image of what a Senator is: someone of immense erudition, character, intelligence, and commitment.

But I got to know him primarily as the father of my friend and now my colleague, JOHN SARBANES, whom I have known since law school, and, therefore, I have known him for most of my life as well.

I can feel the tremors and the shock of this enormous loss for the people of Maryland. I feel deeply for my friend JOHN and for Dina, and for everyone in the Sarbanes family.

I see a lot of his father in JOHN SARBANES, just to echo what Congressman BROWN just said. Paul Sarbanes was a family man who loved, deeply, his children, JOHN, Michael, and Janet, and his big brood of grandchildren. Nothing brought that famous twinkle to his eye more than being in the presence of his beloved kids and grandkids. And, of course, the love story between him and Christine is legendary in our State.

Paul Sarbanes was a man of exquisite character who loved public things. He loved public schools, public universities, public parks. He loved public museums. He loved the res publica, the public thing, and he thought that there was no greater honor than in being a public servant.

I remember he once came out and spoke at an event that I had in Montgomery County, and he said—it really stuck with me. He said, there are many public goods that we try to protect—clean air, clean water, a beautiful bay, good schools, smooth roads—but we should never forget perhaps the greatest public good: the good of being well-governed. This is what allows us to sleep at night.

And he showed us every day in his career in public life the difference between being a public servant who instills justice in our institutions and being one who goes out to exploit public office for private gain. Those are simply in two different galaxies of human experience.

He showed us that those of us who aspire and attain the public office are nothing but the servants of the people in a democracy. We are here only to serve the people and the common good

the very best that we can. And the moment that we begin to act like the masters of the people rather than the servants of the people, that is the moment to evict and eject and reject and impeach and remove.

Indeed, of the many extraordinary moments in Senator Sarbanes' career, we should never forget that he was the first one to introduce Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon during the Watergate affair.

Even in the age of celebrity and the lifestyles of the rich and famous that he came to inhabit, an age of vast economic inequality and adoration of wealth, Senator Sarbanes knew what true wealth is, and he knew what it meant to truly be happy.

He loved the Greek philosophers, of course, and as a Greek-American philosopher himself, he showed us the meaning of what a lot of the Greeks tried to demonstrate in their writings.

He was always the poorest Member of the U.S. Senate in financial terms—nobody even came close, if I remember correctly. Not only did he not trade in the stock market on a daily basis, I don't even think he ever invested in the stock market. He had a savings account.

Now, I am recalling this from memory. Perhaps he did end up with a mutual fund or something.

I know that he was recorded, in term after term, the poorest Member of the Senate, financially. But Senator Sarbanes knew what true wealth is: a Sunday night family dinner, the love of your children, friendships that last over decades across the centuries, the merriment of little children, the thrill of being able to deliver a Social Security check or a VA check to someone who couldn't get it, showing respect for elders, teaching young people the value of education and hard work, having a wife who is your life partner and your soulmate and your equal in all things.

A man of extraordinary character and integrity who was interested in not what was popular, but what was right, Paul Sarbanes, to me, embodied a certain kind of politician.

When I first got into politics, I quickly recognized two different kinds of politicians. There were justice politicians and there were power politicians, and Paul Sarbanes, to me, epitomized what it meant to be a justice politician.

We, in Maryland, have suffered a great loss with the passing of Senator Sarbanes, but he has instilled in his family and in his staff and in everyone who learned from him a love for public things, and we can continue the passionate mission that he had in his life.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME).

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TRONE, and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to join this Special Order on behalf of the late Senator Paul Sarbanes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just thank JOHN SARBANES, our distinguished col-

league from Maryland, for being here, for accepting our joint and individual condolences over the last several days, and for being so very, very much like his father.

I also want to extend that same thanks to Michael Sarbanes and to their sister, Janet, and to the larger Sarbanes family of in-laws, many of whom we have not met, all of whom share in this hour of this overwhelming sense of loss. It is loss both for the family and, obviously, I hope we would agree, for the entire Nation, regardless of what side of that aisle that we sit or stand on.

I first came to know, if I may use that term, Paul Sarbanes in May of 1974, when, as a student of political science, I devoured every opportunity I could to watch political proceedings. And I remember the assignment that we got that May: to make sure that we watched, understood, and learned from what was then the impending impeachment proceedings against Richard Milhous Nixon.

So on a small, fuzzy TV, I got introduced to Paul Sarbanes. And along with him, I got introduced that month to Peter Rodino of New Jersey, the chair of the Judiciary Committee, and to Larry Hogan, Senior, the only Republican to vote for all Articles of Impeachment.

I was just struck by the fact that no matter how much I had heard or believed or given into the fact that politics was just posturing and that politicians would say anything and do anything in order to secure a vote, I saw three men that day, led by Paul Sarbanes, who exemplified, to me at least, the highest ideals of moral character that I had seen coming out of Washington—or any other chamber—because of the way they conducted themselves, but more importantly, because of the principles that they held onto, that in many instances could, in fact, and might, indeed, cost them votes.

But they believed, nonetheless, that the sacred oath of office that we all took when we came to this Chamber, or when others have gone to the Senate, must be something that we abide by.

And so I got a special sense of pride when I realized that not only was this Paul Sarbanes, this dashing young man who was absolutely brilliant on details, not only was he saying and doing and representing all of us, I thought, in the best way possible, he was also from the State of Maryland, which gave me extra pride and extra pause.

I said to myself, if I were to ever be elected to the office, that is the standard that I should subscribe to, that is the standard that I should emulate, and that is the standard that I think all of us benefit from, a standard bequeathed by Paul Sarbanes and others that is just as important today as it was that hot day in May of 1974.

And so while the House has a sense of loss because of Paul's time here and his work with so many of us, because the Senate has that same sense of loss, I

would dare suggest that in Annapolis, Maryland, that the State legislature feels that same way for the many days that he walked those halls and the many bills that he helped usher through them.

We all think about Sarbanes-Oxley, but Paul Sarbanes, lest it ever be misunderstood, fought like crazy to expand affordable housing and to stabilize Social Security and Medicaid trust funds and Medicare trust funds. He fought, as John mentioned earlier, for the little things that may escape many of us, that we might feel that we are too big or too proud to do, just the notion of making sure that people got the same mail delivery on a block who happened to be Black and who happened to be citizens.

So there are a lot of things that can and will be said, I think and I know, about Paul and his life and what he stood for and what he believed in. Let me say a couple of others.

Paul Sarbanes had a good heart. He loved Christine. Whenever I saw him, I saw her. And I said to him once: Paul, isn't Christine tired of you dragging her out to this dinner and to this event and to this speaking engagement?

He said: No, she is actually dragging me out, because there are some times when I don't want to go out.

But he had a very, very good heart, and they represented just the best of matrimony.

I sent a text to John an hour after I learned of the passing of his dad, and I said, among other things: John, you and your sisters won the parents sweepstakes. You just had great parents, great role models, who were great Americans.

So Shakespeare said of that kind of good heart long, long ago, something that he took to pen with, he said that a good heart is like the Sun and the Moon, for it shines bright; it never changes because it keeps its course.

Paul Sarbanes kept his course. He was unawed by opinion, unseduced by flattery, and undismayed by disaster. He instinctively knew that America was not like a blanket: one size, one shape, one texture, or one color; but, rather, and instead, he realized that the America that we all love is so much more like a quilt: different shapes, different sizes, different textures, and different colors, all woven and held together by a single precious thread of democracy.

Paul has taught us so much, and as students who followed him, worked with him, believed with him, loved him, and now miss him, we could never be more thankful.

□ 2000

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the majority leader for organizing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak for Senator Sarbanes' employees, and especially for my sister-in-law Nellie Freeman, who worked for Paul Sarbanes for 17 years, from December of 1989 to January of 2007.

I am not going to talk about all the amazing things about Senator Sarbanes that his Maryland colleagues have eloquently mentioned. JOHN, I am definitely not going to talk about fathers and sons because then I will start crying, but my dad, Sandy Levin, who served in this House for 36 years, and my Uncle Carl Levin, who served for 36 years in the Senate, many of them with Senator Sarbanes, both loved him very much.

But let me talk about Nellie and, by extension, his broader staff. Nellie loved serving in the Senate on the staff, and she loved the Senator. That is what she called him, "the Senator." And JOHN SARBANES saw Nellie Freeman for who she was. He saw her talent and he unleashed her to interact with the people of Maryland, of which she was a native, to organize events, to organize his participation in festivals and convenings of all kinds. And she just loved this work. He saw the value in it and understood that the connection with human beings is the essence of politics.

He once said that Nellie knew more constituents and more local organizations than anyone else in Maryland. And, you know, I think she is just incredibly proud of that to this day. I know that she shared a camaraderie and an esprit de corps and a joy of working for Senator Paul Sarbanes.

How you treat your staff and how you see your staff says a lot about you as a public servant. Senators have a lot more staff than we do over here in the House, and he really knew his staff and treated them great.

After Senator Sarbanes retired, Nellie went on to work for another Senator, and then she retired. And when she retired, her current employer, the Senator, couldn't attend her retirement party, but Paul Sarbanes did. He showed up and he spoke about Nellie. That is the kind of person he was.

So it is a great loss for Maryland and for our country. And I just want to say to all of his former staff that you all don't get enough appreciation. Our staff doesn't. Senator Sarbanes treated his staff right, and I hope we all can live up to his example.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. LEVIN, I, too, rise today to honor the life and legacy of Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes.

The magnitude of his loss can be felt throughout Maryland and the country.

Senator Sarbanes spent his entire career fighting for the issues that Marylanders care the most about. He was a champion for justice, authoring the first article of impeachment against a corrupt President. He was a champion for fairness, tackling corporate regulatory reform and ensuring transparency for investors. He was a champion for the environment, spearheading

efforts to protect Maryland's beloved Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

It is not just his long list of accomplishments that Senator Sarbanes will be remembered for, it is also his dedication to the people. Senator Sarbanes defined what it means to be a public servant. He showed up in the communities that felt left behind. He listened to the concerns of his constituents, and he worked hard to get things done for our State and the country.

That type of leadership is hard to find here in Washington. We can all learn a lot from him. I know I have. My wife, June, and I extend our condolences to the friends and family of Senator Sarbanes, especially to his son, our friend, Congressman JOHN SARBANES.

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

#### A FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), my colleague and wonderful, dear friend.

#### FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. My grandparents were from Indiana, and the gentlewoman from Indiana represents her State well, and I have appreciated our relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my farewell speech to this House, and I am going to surprise some people by saying that I rise today with hope and optimism. I know that is unusual because there are people on both sides of the House that want to say this country is in a bad place and heading in the wrong direction.

I believe that view ignores two very important things. One is our history, and the other is what I hear the people of America telling us.

Several years ago, a number of us from the Senate and the House, both parties, had the privilege of spending an evening at the Library of Congress with the noted American history writer David McCullough. At the end of the evening, the moderator turned to him and said: What parting words do you have for these Members of Congress?

And he said: I think if the people of America knew their history better, they would be more hopeful, they would be more optimistic.

I have been listening to the people of my district for the last 7 years. When I was listening to them, I had no preconceived notions about what they thought, and, buddy, they told me. And the American people, through elections, have told us, too. And the great thing about our elections is there are no filters.

If you go back and look at the history of this country, you will see some notable things. One is that this country was founded by people who believed in principles, in morals, and values that defined who we are. They took a tremendous risk in fighting the most powerful military nation in the world, Great Britain, and they did it after declaring something very important, not just that they were declaring independence, but the reasons for why they were doing it.

That Congress was the Second Continental Congress. The First Continental Congress, which met in 1774, is the forerunner to this House, a group of people elected to represent the people of this country. It is a notion as old as the creation of Parliament and the House of Commons of England, something that was their heritage.

Now, they took a great risk because they felt they faced a great risk. They had been told when those colonies were founded that they would have the same rights as all English people, and they found after the French and Indian war that that wasn't true, that those rights were going to be taken from them, and they were willing to fight for those rights.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say this very clearly. They didn't come into this with clean hands. When the Europeans came to this continent, this was not a new world. This was an old world. There was a civilization already here that had been here for thousands of years. And between our germs, which they had no defense against, and other things worse than that, we essentially took this land from them.

In 1619, European slave traders brought the first slave to this country. So when they went into that fight with the British, they didn't have clean hands. But societies are complex things, and because they didn't have clean hands didn't mean they didn't have clean hearts. And they did.

They waged an incredible war for 5 years against this great military power and won. And they won because of what they stood on. Go back and look at the Declaration of Independence. One sentence in there really says it all: "We hold these truths. . . ."

Truths, absolutes, not something you get to change your mind about.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . . ."

Yes, I know they used the word "men," but the principle of equality was in there. It was in what they were standing on. And they said we were created equal, which means we had a Creator. And they go on in the very next phrase and they say: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator. . . ."

They were gifted. Endowed means gifted. They were gifted by their Creator, by God himself with certain unalienable rights, rights that can't be taken away from them. And that

among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And that governments are instituted among men to secure those very liberties, “. . . deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

We need to reread that sentence over and over again. Government doesn't exist for the politicians. Government exists to secure rights, and the power we have is the power the people give us.

Now, I know very well that we had to follow up that desperate war and that declaration by creating a Constitution, the Constitution we are under today. Sadly, it is a Constitution I fear too many people, including too many people in power, don't know much about. Because the purpose of the Constitution was not only to create a government that had enough power to do what needed to be done for the things that are listed in the preamble of the Constitution, it also put limits on that government. And some of us act as if there are no limits on this government.

And our Founders knew because they had to fight against a tyrannical central government that there needed to be limits on government. Those same English rights that they had inherited had been secured because people, for hundreds of years, had to fight back against British kings that wanted to take power and use it against the people.

□ 2015

People lost their lives. There was great suffering, as there was in our Revolution, because tyrannical central governments don't give their power back easily, they don't give them back without a fight. That fight continued in the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights, which was adopted by this House in the very first Congress under the leadership of James Madison, as he said in his speech to the House when he introduced the Bill of Rights, he said, this is all about making sure that we take away from this powerful government we have created any notion that they can trample on certain specific rights, and they laid them out. And in a couple years, all the States necessary ratified those amendments, and they are part of the fundamental law of this country, although sometimes we act like they are not.

I have listened, by the way, to some of the debates about what rights we have under the Free Exercise Clause. The Free Exercise Clause is in the First Amendment to the Constitution, and it says, Congress can't make any law that establishes a religion or infringes upon the free exercise of that religion; exercise, action. We have a right to freely exercise our religion, and we need to remember that fundamental right along with the others.

Now, that was our founding: the Declaration of Independence, the War for Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. That was our founding,

not 1619. And we need to remember the principles of our founding, because they are central to who we are as people.

Now, over the course of the 19th century, we were invaded by Great Britain, the Capitol Building here was burned, the White House was burned. We could have given up, but we didn't, because that is not who we are.

We not only survived, we fought on and built this great country so that by 1860, we not only bordered on the Atlantic Ocean, we bordered on the Pacific Ocean and we bordered on the Rio Grande. We grew by leaps and bounds.

Then in 1861, we entered another tragedy, because the people that put that Constitution together failed in at least one critical regard: they failed to address the issue of slavery, and we fought a terrible Civil War that cost the lives of 600,000 Americans to solve a problem that should have been solved in 1787.

Despite that war, we came back, we ended slavery, we adopted the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment, and we grew as a Nation throughout the rest of the 19th century.

Finally, in the early 20th century, we did the right thing and gave women the right to vote. Neither of my grandmothers, as young adult women with families, could vote. It is amazing that that was true just that long ago, but it was. But we corrected it, as we always do.

In World War II, this country fought an incredibly difficult world war on three different continents and beat the most powerful nations in the world, and at the end of that war, stood as the only real power left on the Earth.

And we had a choice. We could have walked away, come right back to our shores and said, we are going back to being the insular country we have been. We could have also said, we have got more power than everybody else; we are going to use it against everybody else to make ourselves wealthy.

We did neither.

We stood up and led the world, and created a rules-based order that has benefited people all over the world, that has lifted billions of people out of poverty, that has increased the lifespan of billions of people, that spread democracy and freedom around the globe, because that is who we are.

While we were doing that, we were also facing our problems here at home. Yes, we have problems here at home. We didn't finish the work of the Civil War. We had to go through a difficult civil rights movement, and in this House, we adopted the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and in this House, we adopted the 1965 Voting Rights Act. We did that.

We provided things for the education of the children of this country they didn't have. We provided things for healthcare in this country that people didn't have. We provided for clean air and clean water.

We addressed our own problems while we were leading the world, because that is who we are. We do those things.

Now, I understand that there are people that want to give us a different version of that history. They want to tell us that we are all evil from birth, that somehow this country is inherently evil.

That just doesn't square with historic facts.

They want to rewrite history.

The first thing any authoritarian government does is rewrite history or attempt to do it. The authoritarian wannabes in this country are trying to rewrite our history, and they want to do that to pursue a radical agenda that doesn't match up with what the American people want.

They try to call themselves Progressives. That is not progressive. Wanting a powerful central government is regressive. That is regressing back to what we rebelled against in 1776.

They are not progressive. They are Socialists. They are at least honest in saying that. But they are not progressive. It is regressive.

Let me tell you what I hear the American people say in my district and around this country. They are saying this: We Americans aren't evil. We are and have been a force for good here and around the world.

We aren't Socialists. We don't want a powerful, overreaching central government.

We don't want Medicare for all, where the government makes decisions for us and our doctors, and rations when and how we get our healthcare. We believe our healthcare system is the best in the world, and we want to keep it that way, but we also want to assure that everyone in this country has real access to it.

We don't want a Green New Deal, which jacks up our utility bills, saps our economic competitiveness, and destroys jobs.

We don't want to defund the police. In fact, we think spending on public safety is a good thing. We value our law enforcement officers and we grieve when one is killed, as dozens are every year.

We want our government to defend our shores and interests and protect us here at home. We rely upon the men and women wearing our uniform to do that, and we want our government to take care of them.

I have gotten the chance to travel all over the world to see our men and women in uniform, many of them in harm's way, and I am so proud of them. And like most Americans, I want to make sure we are doing the right thing by them.

We want to make sure that there is opportunity in this country for everyone. Everyone. Don't leave anybody out. We want everybody to be able to take advantage of all that this Nation has to offer. And to achieve that goal, we need quality education for everybody in this country, and not just for the privileged.

It shouldn't be the case that you get one caliber of education because of

where you live, one type of education, one quality of education, and a worse one if you live in some other place. We should give everybody the freedom to have quality education so that they can take advantage of those opportunities.

We want justice for everyone. Everyone. Because injustice to anyone is injustice to us all.

We want our air and water to be clean.

We want to continue to be the economic leader of the world.

Let me stop and say a word about China.

The greatest external threat to this country is China; not the Chinese people, but the Communist Party that runs China. They seek to become the only power in the world; not a power, the only power. And they will do anything—anything. They will stop at nothing to get it.

It is past time for us to wake up and understand the threat that they are, not just to us, but to the entire world and that rules-based order we created after World War II.

And, Mr. Speaker, we the American people are tired of being divided, divided by our region. Since when is it okay for the coasts to look down on the other parts of the country?

We don't want to be divided by race. People aren't defined by the color of their skin, they are not defined by their ethnicity, they are not defined by their national origin. That is anti-American to think that way. We should come together over that.

We don't want to be divided by our gender.

We don't want to be divided by religion. Whether you have got a religion or not, we don't want to be divided by it.

We don't want to be divided by generation, the young versus the old. It has always been that the old handed something valuable to the next generation. That is what we should be about.

That division in our country is the greatest internal threat we have got. And I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is the greatest threat of all, because there is nothing that this great Nation can't accomplish when we are united, when we are *e pluribus unum*, out of many, one.

That is who America is, that is who the American people want us to be, and that is the great challenge before this House.

I have had a great experience here in Congress. I have met some wonderful people. I have had the privilege of serving on the House Armed Services Committee, the Education and Labor Committee, and the Rules Committee. I have seen a lot of important things be done here and be done right.

The best legislation passed in this House is bipartisan legislation. The worst legislation is almost always partisan legislation. Usually it doesn't make it across the finish line, by the way.

Our ability to work together should be what we should all be striving for in this House, and I hope the House to follow will do that.

Mr. Speaker, before I take my leave, I want to say a few things.

I want to thank the many Members of this House who have befriended me and helped me on both sides of the aisle. I particularly want to thank my fellow colleagues in the Alabama delegation. They have been a great family to be a part of.

I want to thank the staff. The staff of this House is amazing, so very helpful, so very competent, and we just couldn't get our jobs down without you.

I want to thank the good people of southwest Alabama. They gave me the great privilege of being here to represent them as their only representative. What an honor that has been. I hope and pray that I have fulfilled the trust that they put in me, because they are my bosses.

I want to thank my many supporters who time and time again helped me, and sometimes it wasn't so easy to do what they had to do.

I want to thank my office staff here in Washington and the district. They made me look good every day, and I could not have done what I have done without them. So to all of my staff, present and former, thank you for what you have done for me.

And I want to thank my long-suffering family. You know, they have loved me and they supported me, even when I wasn't so lovable and even when it wasn't so easy to support me. I could not have done it without them.

So to my son Patrick, his wife, Carolyn, my grandchildren MacGuire and Ann Roberts; my daughter Kathleen and her husband, Steve, and son, Cooper; my daughter Laura, her husband, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Prugh, now presently at the Pentagon; my son Colin; and most of all, I want to thank my wife, Rebecca.

You know, these are hard positions and it is really hard to be the spouse of somebody in these positions, and Rebecca has done a tremendous job in supporting me in every way you could ask. She is truly the love of my life for 40 years now, and I want to thank her for all that she has done for me in all those 40 years, but particularly these last 7 years.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I say farewell to this House. God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, that was outstanding.

And to my dear friend and colleague, best to you in retirement and in your next chapter of life. You have an amazing family; you have a passion for our country. Thank you for reminding us all of the great history of this country. And what an amazing country we are both proud to be born in and lucky to be born in. So I wish you well.

Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of Congress, my dedicated staff past and

present, my family and friends, and most importantly to the Hoosiers of the Fifth District of Indiana: I stand before you today at the end of an incredibly challenging year, at the close of a tumultuous decade, and in the final days of my tenure as a Member of this esteemed body.

When I decided to run for Congress in 2011, it was because I wanted to make a difference in my community and my country. I believed that despite the dysfunction that did and does dominate the headlines, I could get things done for my home State of Indiana and my fellow Hoosiers.

Above all, I wanted to restore confidence in Congress, to reassure people that our government can and does do enormous good, that their elected representatives are dedicated public servants who, while still human, wake up each day committed to ensuring a brighter future for every American, where the opportunity to thrive is not limited to some, but afforded to all.

□ 2030

How do you go about rebuilding trust and faith with some 328 million people? We still have a long way to go. Congressional approval ratings continue to hover in the teens and twenties.

But over the course of my 8 years here, I have identified four steps I believe can and will go a long way to restoring public trust and faith in Congress.

The first sounds relatively simple. We just need to do the work. As every Member of this esteemed body knows, in practice, making an idea into an effective law takes careful planning, hours of learning, listening to the experts, deep discussions, debates with constituents, and colleagues across the political spectrum, not to mention actually writing the legislation and earning the votes to get it signed into law by the President.

These days, it seems like ideas we can all get behind are few and far between. Wherever you look, it is hard not to see the deep divisions in our country, along party lines to be sure, but also along racial, socioeconomic, gender, geographic, and religious lines as well.

Following a very contentious election, those divisions are on full display, for better or for worse. It is easy to point out the problems we face, but it is the difficult, humbling work to set aside our differences, to roll up our sleeves, and to focus on finding solutions. My time in Congress has taught me that it is work worth doing.

Some of the most important work that I have been involved in here has been in response to the number of Americans lost to opioid overdoses each day that is still alarmingly high and being pushed higher by the pandemic.

I am especially proud to have been a part of getting a comprehensive piece of legislation passed to work against every facet of the heroin opioid crisis.

From prevention and education, to treatment and recovery, to getting overdose reversal drugs into the hands of first responders, and supporting law enforcement in their fight against illicit drugs, I am even prouder that the legislation that was ultimately signed into law incorporated hundreds of smart solutions and proposals from individual Members of Congress from across the country and the political spectrum.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act epitomizes the way our government can and should work for us. I have worked hard to ensure that I approach each day ready to collaborate, debate, and work alongside my colleagues, regardless of party, and to really address the challenges facing our country.

I believe government's first priority is security, keeping its citizens safe, the people directly responsible for ensuring our security, our brave servicemen and -women. It is impossible to overstate my admiration and gratitude for the difficult work they do, the sacrifices they and their families make for our safety, and their willingness to pay the ultimate price for our freedom.

I was lucky enough to be a part of a delegation led by retiring Members Representatives MARTHA ROBY and SUSAN DAVIS to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Jordan to thank moms for serving away from their families on Mother's Day. These were among the most meaningful moments of my congressional career. They reinforced my belief that Congress' top job is to support our troops and our diplomats, to give them the tools they need to perform their duty and to never forget the sacrifice they have made and will continue to make for our country.

While contentious and difficult, my work on the Select Committee on Benghazi was, at its core, to make sure we do a better job of protecting our diplomats and Americans serving overseas. They deserve to know that we are doing everything in our power to keep them safe while they protect our interests and defend our Nation abroad.

At home, it is our first responders who are on the front lines of ensuring our safety and upholding the rule of law. Because I worked closely with our partners in law enforcement, first as a deputy mayor in Indianapolis and later as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, I wanted to be a voice for law enforcement in Congress. I saw their dedication and the sacrifices they and their families make.

There were and are areas where we can make both our citizens and our first responders safer.

Following the Boston Marathon bombing, I worked to help first responders use social media as an effective tool for disaster response. Later, my fellow Hoosiers, Senators YOUNG and DONNELLY, and a bipartisan group of my colleagues in the House led efforts to give first responders critical access to mental health support to

manage the trauma inherent in their day-to-day work.

Today, law enforcement needs our support more than ever, even as we look for ways to ensure our laws are enforced justly and fairly.

Time and time again during my congressional career, we found areas of agreement, no matter how small, where positive change can be made for our fellow citizens. And sometimes we go big. We came together to pass the 21st Century Cures Act led by Representative FRED UPTON and Representative DIANA DEGETTE from Colorado, which speeds up the research, development, and deploying of lifesaving medicines, treatments, and, yes, vaccines.

I joined breast cancer survivor Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ to ensure young women can access lifesaving mammograms and detect breast cancer early.

Beyond the big headlines about gridlock and dysfunction, there is good, meaningful work being done on Capitol Hill, but none of it is done alone.

To my beloved friends and family, "thank you" doesn't begin to cover it. You have kept me grounded in purpose, honest and strong. Your unwavering support and love and laughter have made the hard days easier and the happy days more joyful.

My husband, David, and my children, Jessica and Connor, having you by my side every step of the way has made all the difference. I love you very much and couldn't be prouder of all that you have accomplished in the last 8 years.

To the rest of my family and friends at home and across the country, thank you for being my champions, my cheerleaders, and, above all, for walking alongside me even during the difficult parts of this journey. You were the first volunteers for my campaign and you always have my back. I look forward to more time spent with all of you in the months and years to come. To my dedicated team, past and present, some of whom have been with me since the beginning of this wild ride, I share every accomplishment and every accolade with you. It is hard to find people with whom you can share a passion and a purpose, let alone a few laughs and tears along the way.

From the day I announced my candidacy to the day we turn off the lights, there are countless individuals who have contributed to my work with integrity and grit and who served the Fifth District honorably. We have become a family.

While working side by side, we have celebrated life's great joys—weddings, babies, first grandchildren—and cheered one another on during periods of transition—new jobs, pursuing graduate degrees, first homes, and cross-country moves. And we have grieved together during life's inevitable sorrows, mourning friends and family members taken too soon, including Judy Christofolis, who died this past spring after a long battle with breast cancer.

Through it all, I have been lucky to have been surrounded by smart people who are willing to work late nights and early mornings to crisscross the Fifth District to hear directly from our constituents, to learn and grow alongside, and craft effective legislation that really fixes problems for people.

I am proud of all the work we have done together, and I am looking forward to cheering each of you on during all the exciting twists and turns that are yet to come in your life's journey.

To my colleagues, most of whom I now call friends, particularly the Indiana delegation, my brothers and sister Hoosiers, thank you for your collaboration, your intelligence, your patriotism, and your service. It is a privilege to work with each of you, and I am grateful for all the opportunities we had to tackle big problems together.

I want to especially recognize my esteemed congressional mentors, Representative CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, who believed in me and supported me in my very first primary; former Speaker John Boehner, who gave me many opportunities to lead and make a difference; Representative FRED UPTON and Representative GREG WALDEN, who were amazing leaders on the House Energy and Commerce Committee; and to our Republican leadership team, who I have become very close to, Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Whip STEVE SCALISE, and Conference Chair LIZ CHENEY.

They approached their difficult jobs with enthusiasm, integrity, and vision. Thank you for your encouragement, counsel, and wisdom, and for all of our staffs.

Finally, to the people of the Fifth District, it has been the great honor of my life to serve as your voice in Congress, your advocate, for the last 8 years.

I would like to especially recognize the young people who participated in my youth advisory groups, the thousands of constituents who visited with me at Connect With Your Congresswoman events, the educators and business leaders who made our Connecting Careers and Classroom events such a success. You make me proud to be a Hoosier.

That brings me to my second step in rebuilding confidence in Congress. We must remain closely connected, more closely than ever before, to our home States, our communities, and the people we represent. The laws we pass in Congress are focused on the national level, but my first priority is and always has been serving the people of the Fifth.

In 8 years, we worked with more than 4,500 constituents to help them navigate government, resolve issues with Federal agencies like the Veterans Administration, Medicare, assist with stalled international adoptions, and even bring terrorists to justice for the murder of a young Hoosier.

We worked with communities to support critical grants and initiatives that are making the Fifth District of Indiana an even greater place to live, work,

and grow. In Anderson, after years of effort, we secured support for the 8th Street Bridge, a critical transportation link downtown.

We commemorated the 50th anniversary of Robert Kennedy's speech following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I worked with my fellow Hoosier Representative ANDRÉ CARSON and Senators YOUNG and DONNELLY to establish the Landmark for Peace Memorial in Indianapolis as part of the African American Civil Rights Network.

It was the honor of a lifetime to be with the late civil rights icon and my friend, Representative JOHN LEWIS, in Indiana to celebrate that 50 years of struggle and progress.

And, yes, we grieved with the city of Noblesville following a tragic school shooting, but we honored the heroes, the teachers, the nurses, and the school police officers who saved lives that day.

Yes, the job is difficult. But sometimes, this job is just fun. Whether it is calling a brilliant young Hoosier to tell them they received an appointment to attend a military academy, or whether we have traveled the district and learned how puzzles are made at a factory in Tipton, or we joined Indiana Wesleyan University students in Marion to celebrate three national sports titles and their 100th anniversary.

At Launch Fishers and zWorks in Zionsville, we saw the latest and cutting-edge technology and met entrepreneurs on the cusp of the next great idea.

It wouldn't be a trip home without mentioning the food, whether it was enjoying the waffles after ringing the bell to open the farmers market in my hometown of Carmel or grabbing a bite at the Indiana State Fair Midway.

I can't thank all the farmers enough across the Fifth District for opening their farms to me and helping me understand all the work that goes into providing the food on our tables, both at home and around the world.

I even got to try my hand at a few jobs, like spending a day as a UPS driver in suburban Indianapolis.

But it is the conversations with the young Hoosiers that gave me so much hope. I will never forget visiting the JROTC program at Blackford High School and celebrating Veterans Day with them. The adventures across the district and the warm welcomes I received will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Beyond the job and remaining rooted in our districts, the third way we can restore confidence in Congress is to take a hard look at ourselves in the mirror to ensure that Congress truly embodies the diversity that makes our Nation strong and to commit to a culture of continuous improvement.

When my close friend, Representative JACKIE WALORSKI, who is one of my best friends here—we were elected in 2012—we were the first Republican women to represent the State of Indi-

ana in Washington, D.C., in 50 years. Representative Cecil Harden had come before us.

We joined a small, but mighty, group of women in the House who, despite our political differences, agreed that Congress needed more women. And last year, I took the baton from my dear friends, Representative ELISE STEFANIK and ANN WAGNER before her, and we led Republican efforts to recruit more women and more people of color to run for Congress.

This fall, more Republican women ran and won than ever before. Our work must continue on both sides of the aisle if Congress is to truly reflect the diversity of our country. It is one of the reasons I agreed to co-chair the Bipartisan Women's Caucus with Representative LOIS FRANKEL.

Together, we led efforts to improve access to school around the globe for girls. We worked to recognize the female leaders who came before us, from the 100th anniversary of the first woman to serve in Congress, Jeannette Rankin, to the annual Memorial Day service where we honor our female veterans.

Importantly, we acted on the findings of the Indianapolis Star investigation into sexual abuse of young Olympic hopefuls, to protect young athletes from harm and to ensure that victims have access to justice, and we did so across party lines.

Nowhere was bipartisanship more at work, though, than during my service, first as a Member and then as chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee. Holding that gavel not only made me the first Hoosier woman to chair a congressional committee, but it was an unprecedented opportunity to ensure transparency, accountability, access, and justice in Congress. Little did I know that I would preside over the committee at the same time that the #MeToo movement shone a light on the pervasive problem of sexual harassment in our society and in our government.

Like many of you, my good friend and the ranking member TED DEUTCH and I were shocked to learn that millions of dollars in settlements had been paid by Congress to victims of sexual assault. Over the next year, a bipartisan group of Members worked to reform the Congressional Accountability Act to make it easier for victims to report sexual harassment and to make sure that financial settlements aren't paid by Members of Congress and that they must be disclosed to the public.

There is still so much work to be done, but I have to tell you, at the end of my service here in Congress, the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress gives me much hope. I have been a proud member of that committee. We recently published 97 bipartisan recommendations focused on making Congress work more efficiently and transparently and to be more responsive and accessible to the American people.

A quarter of our recommendations have already been enacted, and I hope the rest will soon follow, because if we are to debate 21st century issues, we must bring our policies, technology, staff, and communications into the modern age.

So, I strongly encourage and urge my colleagues and the new Members of Congress to first read our report and then take up the select committee's recommendations and continue the hard work. I want to thank Representatives KILMER and GRAVES for their leadership.

That brings me to my fourth and final step of rebuilding trust and faith in Congress: ensuring we are looking ahead, beyond the most pressing challenges of today, to those on the horizon.

Following the recession in 2009, many Americans were out of work. Still more were underemployed. Our economy was and is moving quickly to Industry 5.0 where careers in tech, connected devices, and AI become the norm.

□ 2045

If we aren't careful, this future will leave many of our fellow citizens behind.

To that end, we have passed legislation to improve training and workforce programs to retrain and deploy Americans who are out of work, to expand 5G networks and rural broadband so more people can participate in this industrial revolution and provide clear guardrails for the technology industry to continue its rapid growth, while offering better protection for our personal information, preventing cyber threats and attacks.

Our world is changing fast, and Congress must keep up. When former Representative MIKE ROGERS approached me about continuing his work to strengthen our national biodefense, I knew it was important work.

Alongside my incredible partner who became a very dear friend, Representative ANNA ESHOO and I began engaging again in the biodefense efforts that have been going on since the early 2000s, the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. It was signed into law in 2019.

This legislation represents years of bipartisan collaboration and thoughtful input from medical and public health preparedness and response leaders. It helped bolster our response to natural disasters and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

When it was passed, I thought the greatest threats we faced were from terrorist organizations like ISIS using chemical or biological weapons in their attack, which are still a significant concern today. But little did I realize that our Nation—our world—was on the verge of a pandemic that would grind business, travel, and life as we knew it to a halt.

I am glad we passed PAHPA when we did, and I know we must do better in

the future. When the next novel virus or biological unforeseen event occurs, Americans will expect more from this institution. We can learn from our successes and failures over the last 9 months and in the months to come as we look toward a COVID-19 vaccine and, ultimately, a return to our normal pace of life. We know some things will never be the same.

Change must happen in our country to make good on our founding promise that all people are created equal and that our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are protected. How we do that is a matter great debate playing out in our streets in protests, on social media, around dinner tables, and in headlines.

It seems like there is no good solution and no way forward. It is up to us—to every American—to forge a path together and to mend the fissures that are breaking apart our Nation and our democracy.

I have spent the last 8 years engaged in this work day in and day out. It is work I will continue for the rest of my life because the truth is we have far more in common than we don't.

We are up to this task. I believe in the American spirit, in the power of our ingenuity, and in the strength of our resolve.

We will get through these difficult days. This pandemic will end. We will get Americans and businesses back to work and school.

We will overcome the scourge of racism and prejudice.

We will restore trust and confidence in our government and in Congress.

We will once again see this Chamber full of big ideas aimed at ensuring the American Dream is within reach for everyone.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the very last time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, when I was a professor teaching American Government before I was elected to Congress, the first thing I would do when beginning to teach a class about Congress and the legislative process would be to show this video. It is the 3-minute "Schoolhouse Rock" cartoon video from the 1970s called "I'm Just a Bill."

The cartoon begins with a group of constituents calling their Congressman with an idea for a new law. The Congressman introduces a bill, which goes through House committee debate and amendment before a vote to report the bill favorably to the House floor.

On the floor, the bill goes through debate and amendment before a majority vote that sends the bill over to the Senate, where the process continues.

This is a process that we call regular order. Regular order in the House is a standard way of legislating that facilitates extensive participation of Members in the deliberative, consensus-based decisionmaking process.

More importantly, this is how the Framers of the Constitution not only intended the House to work, but believed that the House needed to work if the United States, then in its infancy, was to succeed.

Congress was created in Article I of the Constitution because the legislative branch, being closest to the people, was necessarily the linchpin of American representative democracy.

While the Framers didn't include in the Constitution the rules by which the House and Senate would operate, they understood that the way in which the lawmaking process was conducted was critical to the creation of laws that were good for the Nation as a whole and to the legitimacy of Congress and those laws.

James Madison, oftentimes called the Father of Congress, believed it was essential that the legislative branch make policy in the manner that well represented the vast and varied Republic and best served the Nation as a whole.

Remember, our Nation began as a unique experiment in self-governance. There was great doubt about whether the views of people so diverse could successfully be forged into good policy that served such a large nation.

Madison believed that the way to do this was for Members of Congress to represent the multiple and diverse interests and ideas of their constituents in an open marketplace of ideas in Congress. Through the legislative process, the people's Representatives would debate, deliberate, and put together a consensus on legislation that served the common good of the Nation.

What the Constitution created was not a parliamentary system, because the Framers did not intend to empower temporary majorities. Instead, they wanted to compel compromise in a diverse society.

The exercise of power was shared so that all American voters had an opportunity to be heard in the lawmaking process and to ensure that only the will of broad, durable majorities could be acted upon. Especially because America was a large and diverse country whose unity needed to be nurtured, it was critical that the legislative process worked this way so that the American people saw Congress as an institution that truly represented them and saw American law as legitimate.

But today, the House doesn't often work this way, especially when we deal with issues that are of the greatest importance to our Nation. Those bills, when they get considered, don't get shaped through an open process in committee and on the House floor. Each Member doesn't have the opportunity to represent their constituents by bringing their ideas and interests in

the legislative process where debate, deliberation, and compromise produce the best policy for our Nation. Instead, the process runs through the Speaker's Office, where the content of legislation is shaped to get enough votes just out of the majority to pass something that pleases various partisans.

Now, before I go any further, I want to make clear that this is not a criticism of the current Speaker or any former Speaker. This is a problem of our institution.

So how did we get here?

Well, there has been a big change in the way Washington reacts every 2 years after a congressional election. It used to be the case that, when election results came in, everyone looked to see which party has the majority in the House, who has the majority in the Senate and whether it had 60 votes to overcome a filibuster, and which party held the White House.

Understanding that balance of power and the issues facing our Nation over the next 2 years, Members of Congress would get to work figuring out what issues they may be able to come to an agreement on and get passed into law over the next 20 months or so before the next campaign cycle began.

Now, today, what happens is, after understanding the balance of power in Washington after an election, each party retreats to its corner and begins plotting what their party is going to do over the next 2 years.

If there is unified government—that is, one party has majorities in both Chambers of Congress and the Presidency—here in the House, the Speaker will consider the priorities of the party and decide what issues to make their legislative priorities over the next 2 years to create party-preferred laws and keep that majority.

If there is divided government, which is the norm, having occurred 30 out of the last 40 years, and if you include the filibuster, 39½ out of the last 40 years, if that is the case, the Speaker plans what the party can do over the next 2 years to help the party gain unified control of the government with the hope of them passing all of the party's preferred policies. On the other side of the aisle, they figure out what they can do over those 2 years so they can get control.

In order to help the party carry out this biennial plan, Members of Congress have given up much of their power to represent their constituents in the legislative process to party leaders.

So what has this led to?

Gridlock. There are so many issues we need to address in this Nation and we fail to act: healthcare costs, the Federal debt, immigration, climate change, the economic and military threat of China, Social Security and Medicare finances, transportation infrastructure, the continuing decline of good working-class jobs, and reforming the War Powers Act.

These are just some of the major issues which Congress has been failing

to address. I am sure there are other major ones that I just missed.

The one obligation that Congress has each year—passing appropriations bills to fund the government—is almost never accomplished on time.

Presidents have stepped in to fill the policymaking void. They now wield power even to address issues that were specifically put in the hands of Congress in the Constitution.

Increased Presidential exercise of power on policy has resulted in policy whipsawing back and forth depending on the Presidential administration. Lawmaking by executive order has become the norm, so much so that “Saturday Night Live” even did a parody of “I’m Just a Bill,” replacing “bill” with an executive order. And this President has taken it to a new level.

But no matter who the President has been, few of us stand up for our institution. We only criticize Presidential overreach when it is a policy that we don’t like.

And it is not only the President who has gained power because Congress is failing to act. The courts have also stepped in as activists and have turned to the judicial system to settle policy issues in the absence of Congress.

So what we have now is an imperial Presidency and powerful courts with a Congress that largely sits gridlocked.

What happens when we have unified government in those rare times?

The last two times this occurred, major policy changes were passed on completely party-line votes. The minority party then attacked the legitimacy of these laws.

Now, I am not saying that these laws were illegitimate—they were not—but the Framers knew that this kind of attack would happen if we did not come together to forge compromises.

Now, in both these cases when unified government occurred, the last two times it happened, in the next election the House majority was changed by the American people.

Today, Congress is failing in ways that the Founders feared. In Senator Lamar Alexander’s farewell address to the Senate, he defended the filibuster, saying that what is needed to make the Senate work better is not a change of rules but a change of behavior. Unfortunately, I believe that we need some of both.

□ 2100

Over the past 4 years, I have been a Member of the House Problem Solvers Caucus. The Caucus is a bipartisan group of about 50 members, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. We meet every week to talk policy and build relationships. Our goal is to work together to get to “yes” on policies that are good for our country. I greatly enjoyed the Caucus because not only have I been able to build friendships, but was able to participate in a microcosm of what Madison envisioned for the House.

The Problem Solvers Caucus doesn’t always succeed in forging compromise

because sometimes it has been out of our reach, but we have taken on some big issues. I was part of a Problem Solvers Caucus working group that was put together after President Trump said he was going to eliminate DACA, and then told Speaker PELOSI and Senate Democrat Leader SCHUMER he would help work out a legislative solution to protect these immigrants who were brought to the United States as children—the Dreamers.

The President never followed through on that, but the Caucus believed that there was a bipartisan agreement that we could work out that granted the opportunity for citizenship to millions, who we argued were deserving of this, while putting into place policies to prevent future illegal immigration.

Our working group’s meetings usually started at 9 p.m. because that was the time of day that everyone was free from every other obligation that we have around here. We would get together—Democrats and Republicans—learn from each other and from experts of our current law, discuss our views and our constituents’ views on what law should be, what should be done. Honestly, work through every minute detail of a compromise.

We worked late into the night. A few times, I had to run out to catch the last metro train at Union Station at 11:30 so I can get back to my apartment. It was hard work, but enjoyable. And we came up with a compromise that was endorsed by a bipartisan group of 50 members, just as we had come up with a compromise legislation in the same manner which would have helped strengthen the Affordable Care Act and made it more affordable. But in the end, despite our agreement, we could not get legislation on either of these issues to the floor.

We had good policy for our Nation, which probably could have gotten the majority of the House to pass it, and possibly been able to get it through Senate with bipartisan support. We got there by bringing our constituents’ ideas and interests to the table, debating, deliberating, forging a compromise, but the rules did not give us an avenue to bring this agreement to the House.

In the summer of 2018, when the Problem Solvers Caucus proposed changes to the House rules, I said this: “Our Constitution empowered the American people by empowering Congress and their representatives. But Congressional rules are now rigged in a way that greatly diminishes our ability to represent our constituents. This has resulted in a Congress that doesn’t work and is frozen in partisan gridlock, allowing the President and the courts to grab the power that is supposed to be held by the American people. By instituting these proposed reforms, we will begin to restore this power, break partisan gridlock, and facilitate congressional problem-solving that will help us build a better America for future generations.”

We made a little bit of progress in changing rules, but much more is needed. Much more is needed to make this great institution work as it was intended by the Framers of the Constitution to work for the American people, and I am hopeful that those changes will occur and the Problem Solvers Caucus will be successful in the next couple of weeks and in the next Congress because American people need it.

Now, despite the ways in which the House falls short these days, good work still happens here because everyone who gets elected to the House does so because they want to make a difference. And there are still ways that we can succeed for our constituents.

During my time representing the people of the Third District of Illinois, I have always said that my goal every day was to make life a little better for my constituents and our country. And I knew that I had a whole team of staffers there to help me.

Recently, as I was driving out to Washington, I was listening to former Senator Al Franken’s book, “Giant of the Senate.” As an early “Saturday Night Live” watcher, I enjoyed the book very much, and Senator Franken was very candid on a lot of things. One of the most important truths that Franken mentioned, which is rarely spoken around here, is that Members of Congress are never supposed to admit that their staff was responsible for an idea or for being indispensable in getting something done. He says that he once publicly gave credit to a staffer for an idea, and he was told by a colleague not to do that.

It is always the Senator who has the idea and does the work, he was told. Franken thought that was wrong, and I agree. Maybe because I was a staffer before I was elected.

So as I look back on everything that I have done over 16 years, I thank all the staff that worked for me over the years. These are some of the things that we were able to accomplish. We were able to author 16 laws, and I was the chief Democratic cosponsor on 11 other laws.

Promoting American manufacturing jobs was a priority for me, having grown up in and now representing the southwest side of Chicago. We were able to get signed into law the Customs Training Enhancement Act to stop illegal goods coming into the country; the Small Aircraft Revitalization Act to help American aviation manufacturers; the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act Reauthorization to help these manufacturers thrive; and numerous Buy America provisions that we were able to get into transportation and other laws.

Mr. Speaker, but the one I am most proud of is the American Manufacturing and Competitiveness Act, which took 5 years to get done but resulted in the first comprehensive American manufacturing strategy plan to be produced by the Federal Government since

Alexander Hamilton. It is a good plan, and I am hopeful that the Biden administration considers its recommendations.

To protect the environment against climate change, we got the H-Prize Act and the BRIGHT Energy Savings Act into law. To protect victims of sexual assault in the military, we got the SANE Deployment Act into an NDAA. For veterans, we got the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act and the Tarawa MIA Recovery Act.

As an engineer, I love the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. We did much on that committee to increase funding for scientific research and to boost technological innovation activities of the Federal Government. I was proud to author the National Science Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2010. NSF continues to be the gold standard of all international scientific research and innovation agencies.

The most successful program that we were involved with has been the Innovation Corps, or I-Corps, program. I was the nonstop promoter of this program, which teaches university faculty and graduate students about entrepreneurship and has helped launched dozens of startups. We were able to grow that program at NSF and expand it to many other Federal departments and agencies. We were also able to get an offshoot hacking for defense set up at the DOD.

Representing the heart of the transportation hub of our Nation, we were able to accomplish much for northeastern Illinois and the Nation in transportation. Locally, we brought home hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal money to improve local transportation, including funding for roads, bridges, public transportation, sidewalks and bike lanes, and airports.

We helped get a billion dollars for the CREATE rail modernization program to improve the rail network in the region and alleviate some blocked crossings. We added commuter train service on Metra's Heritage Corridor and SouthWest Service lines. We got funding for a new tower at Lewis University Airport and for rail underpasses in Bedford Park in Bridgeview. Midway Airport has been made safer and more successful as an economic engine for the southwest side.

I want to thank individually the staff here in D.C. that made all this possible:

Staff assistants, Veronica Neuberger, Sarah Pittenger, Noah Woodiwiss.

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Our communications directors over the years: Joel Reed, Phil Davidson, the late Chris Ganschow, Nathaniel Zimmer, Isaac Sancken, and our digital press manager, Grace Graunke.

Legislative directors, John Veysey II, John Rattliff, Ryan Quinn, Jason Day, and Alexander Beckmann.

Chiefs of staff, Jason Tai, Jaclyn O'Day, Brian Oszakiewski, Michael McLaughlin, and Eric Lausten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of them for the great work that they have done for me and for the people of the Third District of Illinois. I was going to start naming Members that had helped me get all this work done, but I know the danger in this business of leaving anyone out, so I will just thank all of my colleagues for the work that we have done together over these last 16 years.

Back in the district, we had what I would argue hands down was the best constituent service in the Nation, whether it was helping constituents with issues related to Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and military service, immigration issues, passport issues, mail delivery issues, and many, many more issues.

The staff included Anthony Constantine, Yareli Cortez, Dawn Courtney, Salvatore DiFranco, Jessica Jaroch, Chris Jutton, Joseph Kirkoff, Jean Krupa, Josh Luke, John McGlynn, Frank Salerno, the late Zac Plantz, the late Marianne Viverito.

Over the last few years, we have lost a number of staffers. It has been very difficult, but we have grieved together as a staff and we are thankful to all those departed staffers and their families.

Over the years, Jerry Hurckes was the chief of staff in the Chicago office for most of my time in Congress and he ran that office and ran the district for me.

Lenore Goodfriend was there for most of my time, and she is well-loved by veterans across the district.

Joe Bonomo, who is now my district director, has been with me for all 16 years. Joe has done a great job.

Paula Belmonte, who has been there 16 years also, has helped so many immigrants, and we had a few that we saved from being deported.

And last, but not least, Jerry Mulvihill, who was probably, I would argue, the best case worker in the history of the Congress. Jerry has been called a saint more times than I could ever count for all the work he did for so many people for so many years not just on Federal issues, but any issue that anyone ever brought to Jerry. He is the only staffer I know who was ever written up multiple times in the Chicago newspaper for what he did for people.

Mr. Speaker, all these people made it work and did so much for all the residents of the Third District, and I thank them so much.

Finally, I thank my mother, who gave me the love of learning; and my father, who helped give me the love of

politics; but above all, they both gave me a love of helping others, as my mother was a teacher and my father served in the Chicago City Council before he served here.

I also thank my wife, Judy, who thought she was marrying a lifelong professor but then provided me with more support than I could have ever hoped for in this job. It is only those spouses of Members who know everything that it takes and everything they go through. So I thank Judy so much for her support.

Lastly, I thank the people of Illinois' Third District, who gave me the honor and privilege of serving as their representative.

□ 2115

Mr. Speaker, the greatness of our Nation springs from the founding principles which sound common to us today but were radical for their time: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

I still believe that this is the greatest Nation in the history of the world. It is not perfect because humans aren't perfect, and we cannot be perfected. But we must pray and work every day that each of us and our Nation better uphold the principle of equality, and we had better protect the life and liberty every day for every person, from the very first moment of life until natural death. With God's grace, we will do that, and we will be that shining city upon the hill for all the world to see and follow.

God bless this institution, and God bless the United States of America.

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

#### ECONOMIC MIRACLE IN 2018 AND 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. LIPINSKI, being someone from the other side, you really are one of the good guys. I have had a handful of great conversations with you over the years. Even though I am a conservative from the desert, you have always been very kind to me, and your concern and love for your community have always shone through, so it is appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of those opportunities where you have the feeling you are going to be doing this a lot over this next year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make an argument that growth is moral, and I want to go a bit further than that. One of the things that spurred me to come here is I listened to Janet Yellen just a couple of days ago, who may be becoming Secretary of the Treasury, give a

speech. In that speech, there were wonderful words about caring about working men and women, helping the working poor, but there was a complete failure in that discussion to talk about where we have had success.

Look, so many people in this body run around saying, well, you are conservative, you are liberal, but we care about the hardworking taxpayers of America. We want to see our brothers and sisters in the country, particularly those who—and I hate this term, and it is one of the hazards as a Republican. We often sound like accountants on steroids. You know, we will go and say, well, our brothers and sisters who are in the lower income quartiles—and no one knows what a quartile is.

But the point, we claim we care. We claim we want to do things. I want to claim we have the proof that, in 2018 and 2019, there was a miracle happening in this country.

For the first time in modern economic history of the United States, the thing particularly the left used to scream at Republicans, because they cared so much about income inequality, I am going to make the argument we delivered policy, that, for the first time, income inequality began to shrink, 2 years where it worked.

As the demagoguery, which is the modern political scene, as we hear people like the Janet Yellens of the world, who I have had a great working relationship with over the years, read their script and don't take a moment to say what worked in just the last couple of years, what worked to help so many of our American citizens have opportunity, to see a light at the end of the tunnel, to stop seeing the purchasing power of their lives, their ability to take care of their families and their kids.

Even outside the political rage that drives this body so often, could we take a moment and understand America was doing something it had not been able to do for decades and decades and decades, where the income inequality, the movement of wages, the value of someone's labor, had been being crushed decade after decade? In 2018 and 2019, the data is absolutely solid and clear: There was an economic miracle happening in this country.

If you care about the working poor, take a look at what happened, and let's do more of it. Those things that weren't working in the previous years, let's do less of it. The problem is, in this environment, that becomes partisan.

Let's walk through some of the facts. This is my moment to get a little snarky at my colleagues from the other side and some of their comments they have made. Those of us on our side are looking for our apology because they didn't tell the truth. They projected the future.

This is when Speaker PELOSI then was the minority leader. She, basically, when we did the tax reform, after calling it a scam and then, in her

quote, saying making the rich richer, except that is not what happened. The math is the math is the math. I know it doesn't fit the political rhetoric of this place, but the math is the math.

If you take a look at the highest income quartiles, their percentage of the income, the wealth actually went down in 2018 and 2019, something that had not happened in modern economic history.

You would have thought the Democrats would say, hey, we got it wrong, but we really care a lot about this, because they claim they care a lot about it. So why don't we look at some of the other reality.

My colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee on the other side, the House Democrats, kept doing speeches. I just snipped one of the quotes: You know, the one-time bonuses are nice, but what American workers really deserve are permanent wage increases. The true beneficiaries of the Republican tax bills are shareholders and top corporate executives, not the middle class.

It turns out they were absolutely wrong. And the math is the math is the math. The facts are the facts. If you look at the population—and we even broke this down—you could see wage increases for African Americans were the fastest movement growth in modern times. When I say modern times, I mean like the last 50 years. Hispanics outpaced Anglo workers rather dramatically.

Do you think those of us on the Republican side are ever going to get an apology for them making up things?

Why don't we go on and just make it for gender? It turns out that 2018 and 2019, movement in wage growth was miraculous. There should have been joy in this body if you care about the working poor. It turns out that wage growth for females, particularly females who didn't have a high school education, was remarkable.

I believe in the ending part of 2018, when they did the calculation here, it was over 7 percent wage growth because their labor had value. We lived in a society that actually had more jobs than people.

I will argue that has to be all of our goal. People's work, their labor, became valuable. I desperately hope we start to focus on how we get back to that.

I know some of these charts are hard to read. We will put them up on our website. And I want to compliment the team over at the Joint Economic Committee for helping me do this. But this one and the next one are important because it is a simple fact that the rhetoric after tax reform from the left, they made things up. By doing that, they hurt so many Americans.

If we had been honest about the facts—it would be intellectually honest if my colleagues on the other side would step up and say, okay, yeah, it is really, really helping the working poor. It is really helping the working Americans. But we think we can do it better.

That would be honest. God bless them, that would be honest. But to say it was hurting them was a lie.

Here is a simple example. 2017, before tax reform, if we—we always compare and talk about the top quartile, the top 1 percent of income earners. They were controlling, I think, slightly over 20 percent, 21 percent, of all the income in the country, and they were paying about 38.5 percent of all the Federal income taxes.

What happened after tax reform? How many times did we hear from the left, from the leftwing echo chamber, from the media, that, well, this was tax cuts for the rich? Well, a year later, when there was tax reform, 2018, the top 1 percent were no longer paying 38.5 percent of the Federal income taxes. Now, they are paying over 40 percent of the Federal income taxes, but yet their control of the wage, of the wealth, income wealth, actually went down.

But what was more important—and this is my failing—we don't talk enough about it. We will call it the bottom 50 percent of our brothers and sisters that we claim we represent, that we claim, when we get behind these microphones, we care about. There, the bottom 50 percent, their tax burden actually decreased, but the percentage of the wages went up.

This is only 2018. The 2019 numbers haven't been vetted because they are still not all in yet. Our understanding is, preliminarily, the curve even steepens. The fact of the matter is, there was an economic miracle happening in 2018 and 2019. If you care about people, we need to figure out what we were doing right and go back and do more of it.

Another way to basically say the same thing, this is—and forgive me if I mispronounce the name. Is it Ms. Tanden who may become the OMB Director? She is the potential OMB nominee. She said some incredibly partisan things that were wrong. The lift-out quote here is: Because they practice class warfare against us.

Well, actually, no. It is just the opposite. If you look at the math, the top 10 percent under the old tax system were paying less of the Federal tax burden than they did after tax reform. Our brothers and sisters, the other 90 percent of the income-earners in this country, were paying less of the Federal tax burden after tax reform. The math is the math. But the rhetoric is toxic and didn't tell the truth. Once again, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI: Widening the income inequality gap.

Except the fact is, the Republican tax reform along with some of the other policies that came about in 2018 and 2019 were the first time in modern economic history where income inequality actually shrank.

I always thought that was the holy grail here, that the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer—except after tax reform, except after some of the regulatory reform.

If you care about working men and women in this country, if you care about the working poor, you have a template that is only a year in the past where it was working.

Let's figure out what we were doing right, and, Mr. Speaker, let's go back and do more of it. The one thing I will beg of this body, as the Democrats look like they will continue to be in the majority, and they have spent a couple of years demagoguing our previous work as Republicans when we did the tax reform, when we did, the economic opportunity that it brought: Stop making up the numbers. Tell the truth.

Let's hold hands—well, in the COVID world, we will talk at an appropriate 6-foot distance. If our rhetoric is we care, we have delivered tax reform in a fashion where it worked.

□ 2130

It created an economic, in many ways, to quote Chairman Powell of the Federal Reserve, a Goldilocks economy.

I hope it is every Member of Congress' goal here. Let's get back to that Goldilocks economy that was helping so many of our poor, so many of our working poor, so many of our working class, and actually, as you can see in the data, was closing income inequality.

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

#### POOR TRAINING AND OVERSIGHT OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) until 10 p.m.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and tonight I would like to initiate this event with some words of thanks for the many people who work late into the night with us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of them for what they do and for staying here for the duration. And there are other persons who are without this facility who are also here until we leave, so I thank them for what they do.

I also, tonight, would like to make note of the Houston Chronicle. That is the largest newspaper in Houston, Texas. And I would like to thank the Houston Chronicle for exercising some of its courage and some of its wisdom in terms of what it has produced with some of the news stories as of late.

The Houston Chronicle has printed two stories that I would like to focus on tonight. They are about policing in the State of Texas.

I have two documents that I include in the RECORD. They both deal with policing in Texas. The first one is styled: "Blistering Government Report Blasts Poor Training, Oversight of Texas Law Enforcement." The second one is an editorial, titled: "Editorial: Hairstylists Get More Training Than Texas Cops? That's Unacceptable."

[From Houston Chronicle Local, Nov. 30, 2020]

#### BLISTERING GOVERNMENT REPORT BLASTS POOR TRAINING, OVERSIGHT OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

(By St. John Barned-Smith and Eric Dexheimer.)

Last year, more than 600 Texas law enforcement officers received a dishonorable discharge from their agencies for misconduct. Yet more than a quarter of them were rehired to work as sworn officers.

To qualify for a peace officer license, Texas cops need fewer hours of basic training than licensed cosmetologists and less than half the education required of air-conditioning and refrigeration contractors. While the basic training requires officers to spend 48 hours on the firing range, it demands only two hours of "civilian interaction" instruction.

The difficulty of purging bad officers from the ranks of Texas police and outdated and inadequate officer training highlight how state lawmakers have rendered the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement unable to meaningfully oversee the profession, according to a blistering new report by the Sunset Advisory Commission. The commission reviews the performance of state agencies every 10 years or so.

The Sunset Advisory Commission's critical findings come amid a contentious nationwide re-evaluation of the fundamental role of police. The deaths of Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and George Floyd, among others, have prompted calls for stronger oversight from police departments and civilian review boards, as well as stricter limits on police use of force.

But in Texas, the regulation of law enforcement is "by and large, toothless," the Sunset report concluded.

Although it is charged with licensing police and correctional officers and 911 dispatchers, the law enforcement commission differs from state agencies that regulate other professions in that it has almost no authority to act against an officer's license. Instead, most oversight of police conduct is left up to each of the state's 2,700 law enforcement agencies, which set their own policies and standards.

Without a shared definition of professional conduct, many have widely differing rules. For example, "In the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, chokeholds are an acceptable technique west of the 3200 block of Sandy Lane, but are not allowed on the east side of the same street because it crosses two different . . . jurisdictions," the Sunset report found.

Texas' patchwork of uneven oversight has resulted in "a fragmented, outdated system with poor accountability, lack of statewide standards, and inadequate training," the Sunset report stated.

While advocacy groups and demonstrators have demanded better police oversight, they also have called on cities to reallocate millions of dollars from law enforcement budgets into community services. That, in turn, has sparked swift blowback from conservative politicians and supporters of law enforcement. In Austin, a lawmaker recently filed legislation prohibiting local governments from cutting police budgets.

Washington-based criminologist Matthew Hickman said the protests and impassioned conversations about police reform have revealed holes in how municipalities, states and the federal government oversee law enforcement officers.

Accountability starts at the department level, he said, with internal affairs investigation. At the other end, in the most egregious circumstances, the Department of Justice

can pursue civil rights investigations against problem departments.

Charley Wilkison, executive director of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said the Sunset report was just the beginning of the process of state lawmakers' evaluation of the law enforcement commission. Legislators will hold hearings next year and almost certainly change some of the Sunset staff's recommendations.

"What you're seeing there is not going to be state law," he said. While his organization agreed some changes were needed, he said, it opposed granting the state commission sweeping new enforcement powers to investigate and discipline officers.

Still, policing watchdogs said the report's findings rang true. "Right now, it definitely feels like at the state level, there's little to no regulation of law enforcement that's happening," said Chris Harris of the nonprofit public interest justice center Texas Applesed, "and to the extent there is, it's not effective."

And one key Houston-area legislator said he was inclined to make some changes. Reforms to the agency are "long overdue," said state Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, who said the Texas law enforcement commission should operate more like other regulatory boards such as the State Bar of Texas or the State Board of Pharmacy.

The report was notable for its sweepingly critical evaluation of nearly every facet of the agency, calling its regulation of the profession "fundamentally broken." It said the changes it recommended were stopgap and called for legislators to form a blue ribbon committee "to comprehensively look at how the state regulates law enforcement and recommend needed changes to improve law enforcement regulation in Texas."

It took particular note of the state's inability to discipline officers for misconduct. It pointed to a recent incident in which the San Antonio Police Department fired an officer for giving a homeless man a sandwich filled with dog feces. Yet the officer, Matthew Luckhurst, was able to return to the force. He was later fired—for good—after another feces-related incident.

The example highlighted the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's limited authority to take any action against an officer's state license. The agency may act only when officers fail to complete mandatory continued education, if they are convicted of or received deferred adjudication for felonies or certain misdemeanors, or if they receive a second dishonorable discharge. The agency has even less authority to sanction individual law enforcement agencies.

Roger Goldman, retired law professor from the Saint Louis University School of Law, said that about two-thirds of states have stronger oversight abilities at the state level than Texas, and that in many states, officers can have their licenses revoked for misconduct even if they haven't been convicted of a crime.

Many states across the country are taking other tacks to try to prevent bad officers from getting hired at other departments after allegations of gross misconduct.

Some states are now requiring departments to screen candidates more rigorously. In Vermont, for example, lawmakers passed a bill requiring departments to provide information about why they fired officers to other departments when those officers try to get new jobs. In Connecticut, lawmakers implemented rules requiring regulators to create a list of officers fired for serious misconduct but whose licenses were not decertified. The list prevented officers from being rehired by other departments, Goldman said.

Matt Simpson, with the ACLU of Texas, said that while the Sunset review recommended a panel to study needed changes,

lawmakers in the meantime should “ensure public safety is not threatened” by unqualified cops and pass reforms to give the law enforcement commission more authority to discipline officers dishonorably discharged, as well as empower the agency to sanction law enforcement agencies that “fail to hold up their end of the bargain in hiring and training qualified law enforcement officers.”

Simpson also urged the Legislature to pass reforms that set statewide use of force standards and require a focus on de-escalation and proportional response; require officers to intervene if they witness other officers using excessive force; and pass citation requirements for low-level offenses.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Dec. 7, 2020]

EDITORIAL: HAIRSTYLISTS GET MORE TRAINING THAN TEXAS COPS? THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE

(The Editorial Board)

People who call the police for help in a life and death situation have every right to expect the responding officer to be at least as well-trained and professional as the person who cuts their hair or fixes their air conditioner.

We should have similar assurances that the deputy pulling us over for speeding or the jailer locking the cell door holding a murder suspect are being held accountable to local and state legal standards that preserve life, safety and civil liberties.

That may not be the case in Texas, according to a harshly critical report from the Sunset Advisory Commission, the oversight body the Legislature created to ensure state government agencies remain effective or be shut down.

The study showed that the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, the organization responsible for licensing peace officers and regulating state and local police agencies, hasn't been able to effectively hold police or their departments to sufficient standards. It found that “Texas” approach has resulted in a fragmented, outdated system with poor accountability, lack of statewide standards, and inadequate training.”

In the wake of the 2015 jail death of Sandra Bland in Waller County, the carnage of the 2019 botched Harding Street raid in Houston and the death in Austin later that year of Javier Ambler after a police stop, scrutiny of police practices and policies is long overdue. The Sunset report only increases the urgency for Houston to move forward on recent recommendations for reform at HPD and for Texas to make fundamental changes at the state level.

The Sunset process, which begins with the staff recommendations, will eventually require lawmakers to pass new enabling legislation for the agencies under review or allow them to close. That's powerful leverage for lawmakers who believe, as we do, that the Legislature should overhaul the way the state certifies and regulates the 155,000 peace officers, jailers, emergency telecommunications operators and school marshals operating within 2,700 local law enforcement agencies across Texas.

The report makes clear that the current system too often allows officers fired from one department to get hired by another, fails to provide the basic levels of instruction needed to support the demands of a fast-changing profession and does not adequately inform the public about a government service that is crucial to daily life and safety.

A new state system needs to focus on transparency, training and true accountability. That isn't the case now.

The Sunset report found that Texas requires more time in basic training for cosmetologists (1,000 hours) than for cops (696

hours). Air conditioning and refrigeration contractors, meanwhile, have to put in 2,000 hours of training to get licensed. The Houston Police Department requires at least 48 semester hours of college credit for prospective officers but a high school diploma or GED is enough in other parts of the state.

The type of training officers receive is also out of whack with real world demands. Requiring 48 hours for firearms training and 40 hours for instruction in arrest, search and seizure is appropriate, but the regimen also includes four hours of work on interacting with canines while requiring only two hours on interacting with civilians.

The standard Basic Peace Officer Course includes only four hours for education on “Family Violence, Child Victims, and Related Assaultive Offenses” and no special training for dealing with rape victims.

The fact that larger departments in places such as Houston, Dallas and Harris County mandate, at local expense, more and specialized training for officers only points out how much it is needed as a basic state standard.

This isn't about creating a one-size-fits-all program. It's about certifying officers have the knowledge and skills to do vital, dangerous and demanding jobs. The officers themselves will be the first beneficiaries of these stepped-up training requirements. The patchwork approach leaves standards for policing to vary across the state's 254 counties, 1,200 cities and other jurisdictions, depending on widely disparate resources, department culture and current leadership attitudes about training. That's not how the law is supposed to work.

The Sunset report also raises questions about TCOLE's ability to protect the public from bad cops, including the way background checks are done and how information about firings is handled.

More than 600 Texas law enforcement officers received a dishonorable discharge for misconduct last year with more than a quarter of them being rehired to work as sworn officers with their original departments or elsewhere in the state. TCOLE is barred from revoking a license except in cases of a criminal conviction or after a second dishonorable discharge.

That unwisely precludes an independent review by an agency that is supposed to be upholding statewide standards.

None of this is good for the public, which deserves consistent and competent policing, nor for the officers who deserve professional training and the respect that comes with it.

The Sunset Commission concludes that the current system isn't working and recommends a blue ribbon panel to rethink how Texas handles law enforcement regulation. Fine. But more study is not enough. Lawmakers should hear from experts about what it can do this session, beginning in January, to strengthen TCOLE so that Texans can count on a police force that is properly trained, a process that is publicly transparent and a system that guards the public trust through robust oversight.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start with this one on the “Blistering Government Report Blasts Poor Training Oversight of Texas Law Enforcement.” This is from the Houston Chronicle.

The Houston Chronicle indicates: “Last year, more than 600 Texas law enforcement officers received a dishonorable discharge from their agencies for misconduct. Yet more than a quarter of them were rehired to work as sworn officers.

“To qualify for a peace officer license, Texas cops need fewer hours of

basic training than licensed cosmetologists and less than half the education required of air-conditioning and refrigeration contractors. While the basic training requires officers to spend 48 hours on the firing range, it demands only 2 hours of ‘civilian interaction’ instruction.”

Some things bear repeating: 48 hours on the firing range and 2 hours of civilian interaction instruction.

Something has got to change, and I am pleased to see that the Chronicle is a part of the movement to bring about the change, the reform that is necessary.

This story goes on to read, and it is dated, by the way, November 30, 2020, at 10:16 a.m., when it was last updated.

It goes on to indicate: “. . . in Texas, the regulation of law enforcement is ‘by and large, toothless.’”

This is from a sunset committee report.

I want to focus for just a moment now on why this is so important to me.

I have a constituent, a constituent who has made his transition, and it is because of an encounter with a peace officer in the State of Texas. I want to talk about Joshua Johnson and how the death of Joshua Johnson has had an impact on my life and, I believe, on the lives of many others who are familiar with this story.

I believe his case is one for us to examine another way of taking these cases of questionable shootings by police before the authorities.

In the case of Joshua Johnson, he was a 35-year-old Black man, and at 6 a.m. on April 22, Joshua Johnson was housesitting for a neighbor. He went out of his home, or that home, and he went out into the street. He had an encounter with a peace officer who was there.

Much has been said about the encounter, but what I will tell you now is based on facts, because we have an actual recording of what an officer has said that, in my opinion, has corrupted this investigation.

Joshua had this encounter, and as a result, he was shot twice. He, later on, died.

But let's not continue from this point. Let's step back for just a moment.

His parents lived within yards of where he died. His father took his mother to work that morning, and when he returned, his son had lost his life. He acquired the opportunity to go and bring his wife to the area near the scene, and there was an investigating officer there.

This officer took it upon himself to explain to the Bearys—these are the parents of Joshua, Ms. Wilhelmena Beary and Mr. Richard Beary. He took it upon himself to tell them what the facts were.

He told them that their son approached this officer who was in a car, a vehicle, and that this officer told their son to lower a pistol. It was a BB pistol, according to the report. The son

had his phone flashlight on. He did not lower the pistol, and as a result, he was shot twice and he was killed.

Now, the officer that called this to the attention of the Bearys did not talk to the officer who did the shooting. He did not have the benefit of a video recording. He did not have the benefit of an autopsy report because one had not been performed. This was just 2 hours after Joshua's death.

He did not have the benefit of a ballistics report. He did not talk to the medical examiner before making these statements. There was no way for him to know what he would say, but he said it, and it has become the narrative for Joshua's death.

This officer who shot Joshua twice—and this is the part that will tear at your heart—he shot Joshua twice and drove away, shot him twice and left the scene and drove away and went around the corner.

If he shot him because he was in fear of his life, and this is typically what is said, should he not have concern for the lives of people in that neighborhood that he was sworn to protect?

Joshua didn't die immediately, but he did die within some short time after he was shot.

So the Bearys find themselves being told how their son died by someone who didn't see it, didn't have a video recording of it, didn't have an autopsy report, didn't have a ballistics report, didn't talk to the medical examiner. They had someone who literally gave them a story that some conclude was made up.

Can you imagine? Your son is on the ground. Your son is there. You can't go over and see your son. And you are told that your son has died because he pulled a BB pistol on a peace officer.

This is important in terms of what the officer said because of this training: 2 hours of civilian interaction instruction, not nearly enough.

That officer who was investigating should have been better trained such that he would not have told this story without having more of the actual facts, such that what he would tell them they could believe.

No ballistics report. No autopsy report. No conversation with the medical

examiner. Didn't talk to the officer who shot Joshua. Yet he told them that these were the facts in terms of how their son had lost his life.

This officer needed better training. Unfortunately, in Texas, they are not getting this training at this time, and I am proud of the Chronicle for pointing it out.

But he also needs training in terms of how you present yourself and how you protect the people in the neighborhood that he was in.

Let's talk about the shooter.

How can a police officer shoot a person twice, not be fired upon, and simply drive away? It makes no sense. Drive away.

If you believe that this person was a threat, wouldn't you want to protect the people that you are sworn to protect and defend by staying there, or wouldn't you call for additional help?

You shoot him twice and you leave. Joshua died.

There is more to the story, but my point tonight is this. The Houston Chronicle has apparently decided that enough is enough and that there should be better policing in the State of Texas.

I have decided that there is another way to deal with these cases. The grand jury is one means by which we can take cases to court, but there is another way.

In Texas, we have something called the court of inquiry. I believe that it is time for us to use this tool, the court of inquiry, to get the facts and have transparency such that the public can understand what is happening, that they cannot acquire intelligence on when these cases go before a grand jury because it is all sworn to secrecy. No one can tell you what happened before the grand jury. Maybe the district attorney can give you some semblance of what happened.

But the court of inquiry allows any person who believes that a crime has been committed to go before a district judge and explain what the facts are. And if that judge believes that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, then that judge goes to another judge, an administrative judge, and makes an appeal to the

administrative judge to convene the court of inquiry, then a third judge will actually conduct the court of inquiry.

I think that in the State of Texas, because of the training—or the absence thereof—as it relates to our peace officers, this court of inquiry is going to be of great benefit as we move forward.

It is time to change the paradigm. Simply allowing these cases to go before a grand jury and never know what actually happened is not enough.

I believe that the Houston Chronicle has set a proper course for us to move in a direction that will change policing in the State of Texas, and I would invite persons to please read these two articles that I have called to your attention.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you and all who are listening with these words:

Joshua Johnson shouldn't have lost his life that morning.

Joshua Johnson shouldn't be another statistic.

Joshua should be with his parents.

My prayer is that these parents will receive the justice they deserve because they have been waiting approximately 230 days for some decision from law enforcement, and they have not had that decision.

There is some hope. The district attorney's office is moving forward with an investigation. My prayer is that this family will receive the justice that they deserve because their son shouldn't have lost his life on the 22nd of April this year at approximately 6 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 631, For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1375, the PAID Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1375

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2021–2025	2021–2030
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact .....	19	11	0	-3	-4	-4	-4	-5	-5	-5	23	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 2477, the BENES Act of 2020, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2477

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2021–2025	2021–2030
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact .....	13	15	29	31	15	–4	–13	–44	–64	–84	104	–105

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 4225, For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 7572, For the relief of Median El-Moustrah, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 8235, the Open Courts Act of 2020, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 8235

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2021–2025	2021–2030
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact .....	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	9

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-5883. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission’s joint final rule — Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures (RIN: 3038-AE88) received December 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5884. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s interim final rule — Implementing Executive Order 13891; Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents [Docket No.: FR-6192-I-01] (RIN: 2501-AD93) received November 17, 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.

EC-5885. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Manufactured Housing Program: Minimum Payments to the States [Docket No.: FR-5848-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ37) received November 17, 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.

EC-5886. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Registration Requirements for Pooled Plan Providers (RIN: 1210-AB94) received November 17, 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.

EC-5887. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0418; FRL-10016-28-Region 9] received November 17, 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.

EC-5888. A letter from the Director Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Chemical Data Reporting; Final Extension of the 2020 Submission Period [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0321; FRL-10016-96] (RIN: 2070-AK33) received December 2, 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.

EC-5889. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Rhode Island: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R01-UST-2020-0207; FRL-10015-22-Region 1] received December 2, 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.

EC-5890. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — South Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2020-0402; FRL-10016-11-Region 4] received December 2, 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.

EC-5891. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0461; FRL-10016-23] received December 2, 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.

EC-5892. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-2.B) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2019-0650; FRL-10015-16] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 2, 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.

EC-5893. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final actions — Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA Section 108(b) for Facilities in the Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Industry; the Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing Industry; and the Chemical Manufacturing Industry [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0085, EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0086, EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0087, FRL-10017-87-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH03) received December 2, 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.

EC-5894. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Adipic Acid; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0569; FRL-10015-57] received December 2, 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.

EC-5895. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, CPD, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements in an Era of Next-Generation Networks and Services [WC Docket No.: 19-308] received November 17, 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.

EC-5896. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Restoring Internet Freedom [WC Docket No.: 17-108]; Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers [WC Docket No. 17-287]; Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization [WC Docket No. 11-42] received November 17, 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.

EC-5897. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Unlicensed White Space Device Operations in the Television Bands [ET Docket No.: 20-36] received November 17, 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.

EC-5898. A letter from the Director, Executive Office of the President — Office of Administration, White House, transmitting the accounting transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108(b); Public Law 95-570, Sec. 2(a); (92 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5899. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's 2020 Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049) and 31 U.S.C. 3516 note; Public Law 112-217, Sec. 2(c); (126 Stat. 1591); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5900. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020, pursuant to Sec. 5(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5901. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, for the 6-month period ending September 30, 2020, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5902. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's direct final rule — Methods of Withdrawing Funds from the Thrift Savings Plan received December 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5903. A letter from the Acting Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's FY 2019 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5904. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5905. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2020 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5906. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Na-

tional Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Provisions; Electric Bicycles [NPS-WASO-REGS; 30756; GPO Deposit Account 431H2] (RIN: 1024-AE61) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5907. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Jurisdiction in Alaska [NPS-AKRO-30677; PPAKAKROZ5, PPMRLEIY.L00000] (RIN: 1024-AE63) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5908. A letter from the Clerk of the Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, transmitting the Court's opinion in the case of *Panjiva, Inc. v. United States Customs and Border Protection*, docket no. 19-118 (September 17, 2020); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5909. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds; Atlantic Ocean, Jacksonville, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2016-0897] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received November 17, 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.

EC-5910. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Electrical Cable Removal, Menominee River, Menominee, MI and Marinette, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0642] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 17, 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.

EC-5911. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Spa Creek, Annapolis, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0511] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 17, 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.

EC-5912. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Florida [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0631] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 17, 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.

EC-5913. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Vessel Launch, Menominee River, Marinette, WI and Menominee, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0632] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 17, 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.

EC-5914. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Morehead City, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0597] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 17, 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.

EC-5915. A letter from the YN1 Legal Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Boat Parade; San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0611] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 17, 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.

EC-5916. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Distribution of individual custodial account in kind upon termination of a Sec. 403(b) plan received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5917. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Telephone Hearing Extension (Revenue Procedure 2020-49) received December 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5918. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Gaming Industry Tip Compliance Agreement Program (Rev. Proc. 2020-47) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5919. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulations — Additional First Year Depreciation Deduction [TD 9916] (RIN: 1545-BP32) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5920. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Gain or Loss of Foreign Persons from Sale or Exchange of Certain Partnership Interests [TD 9919] (RIN: 1545-B086) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5921. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulation — Updated Life Expectancy and Distribution Period Tables Used for Purposes of Determining Minimum Required Distributions [TD 9930] (RIN: 1545-BP11) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5922. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major interim final rule — Additional Policy and Regulatory Regulations in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [TD 9931] (RIN: 1545-BP97) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5923. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Request for Comments Regarding Protection of Annuity and Spousal Rights Under Section 205 of ERISA with Respect to a Terminating Sec. 403(b) Plan Funded Through the Use of Custodial Accounts [Notice 2020-80] received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5924. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Guidance Related to the Allocation and Apportionment of Deductions and Foreign Taxes, Foreign Tax Redeterminations, Foreign Tax Credit Disallowance Under Section 965(g), Consolidated Groups, Hybrid Arrangements and Certain Payments Under Section 951A [TD 9922] (RIN: 1545-BP21; 1545-BP22) received November 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5925. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Guidance under Section 529A: Qualified ABLE Programs [TD 9923] (RIN: 1545-BM68) (RIN: 1545-BP10) received December 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5926. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major rule — Transparency in Coverage [TD 9929] (RIN: 1545-BP47) received December 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5927. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Modernizing and Clarifying the Physician Self-Referral Regulations [CMS-1720-F] (RIN: 0938-AT64) received November 24, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2477. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-621, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3361. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-622). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1426. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-623). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. House Resolution 549. Resolution reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity (Rept. 116-624). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5541. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-625, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5758. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make technical corrections to the energy conservation standard for ceiling fans, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-626). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 307. A bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-627). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 877. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-628). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2956. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge; with an amendment (Rept. 116-629). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3651. A bill to facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public, outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-630). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7119. A bill to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-631, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5929. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require reporting of certain expenditures for political activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-632). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1731. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies; with an amendment (Rept. 116-633). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5930. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose information about human capital management in annual reports, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-634). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4328. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to protect certain consumers affected by a shutdown, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-635). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7119 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. MCKINLEY (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 8893. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide supplementary 2020 recovery rebates to eligible individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 8894. A bill to repeal the authority of the Food and Drug Administration to require that drugs be dispensed only upon prescription, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 8895. A bill to ensure funding of the United States trustees, extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 8896. A bill to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly referred to as the Communications Decency Act) to stop censorship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8897. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the development of rapid and cost-effective medical countermeasures to pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BASS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 8898. A bill to require the submission of a report to the Congress on parasitic disease among poor Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 8899. A bill to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to improve the security of their telecommunications networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 8900. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, 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. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 8901. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish new requirements for State homes for veterans that receive per diem from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 8902. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to add a bankruptcy chapter relating to the debt of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 8903. A bill to establish the National Police Misuse of Force Investigation Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 8904. A bill to amend the Higher Education of 1965 to establish the Federal Perkins ARC loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 8905. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reduce the threat of counterfeit drugs to the pharmaceutical supply chain, and to make the pharmaceutical supply chain more robust, while ensuring the authenticity, content, purity, and manufacturing location and batch number of drugs (including COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines) and allowing patient verification of authenticity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H. Res. 1251. A resolution expressing support for the designation of December 19, 2020, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. ROY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H. Res. 1252. A resolution expressing support for efforts across the country to count every legal vote and to investigate and punish election fraud in the 2020 Presidential election; to the Committee on House Administration.

### 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. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 8893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this constitution in the Government of the

United States, or in any Department of the Officer Therof.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 8894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution; to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 8895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 8896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 8898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 8899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—To regulate commerce with foreign nations.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 8900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states:

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ."

In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides:

"The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ."

Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 8901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 8902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 8903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 8904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 8905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 945: Mr. MCCAUL.  
 H.R. 1118: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 1170: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 1979: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
 H.R. 2350: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 2442: Ms. BARRAGAN.  
 H.R. 3107: Mr. WALKER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 3654: Mr. SMUCKER.  
 H.R. 3783: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 3849: Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 4098: Mr. WALKER.  
 H.R. 5434: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 5990: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 6137: Ms. FINKENAUER.  
 H.R. 6142: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 6626: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 6678: Mr. LAMB and Mr. KIM.  
 H.R. 6718: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 6918: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 6958: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.  
 H.R. 6994: Mrs. WAGNER.  
 H.R. 7073: Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 7233: Mr. CROW.  
 H.R. 7393: Mr. KIND.  
 H.R. 7414: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
 H.R. 7547: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 7647: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 7663: Mr. LUCAS.  
 H.R. 7806: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 7808: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 7839: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 8082: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. PAYNE.  
 H.R. 8125: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.  
 H.R. 8179: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Mr. HASTINGS.  
 H.R. 8250: Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 8359: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
 H.R. 8361: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
 H.R. 8433: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CLAY.  
 H.R. 8502: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.  
 H.R. 8517: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 8591: Mrs. ROBY.  
 H.R. 8617: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 8662: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 8702: Mr. AMODEI and Miss RICE of New York.  
 H.R. 8769: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 8801: Mr. TRONE, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.R. 8805: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
 H.R. 8830: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 8831: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.  
 H.R. 8840: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 8858: Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
 H.R. 8859: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 8882: Mr. BABIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.J. Res. 20: Mr. WALKER.

H. Res. 114: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Res. 701: Ms. PINGREE.

H. Res. 1171: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED  
TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF  
BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MRS. LOWEY

H.R. 8900, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmark, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



United States  
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# Congressional Record

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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep us from disappointing You. Inspire us in all we say and do to glorify You. Empower our Senators to strive to please You in their every thought and action.

Lord, we acknowledge that You are our rock of safety and our fortress during every season of distress. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to honor Your Name in their work, entrusting You to take care of all their tomorrows. Set them in a safe place because of Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO TOM HARKIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, long before he was sworn into the U.S. Senate, my former colleague, Tom Harkin from Iowa, served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. He and I represented Iowans for 30 years together here in the U.S. Senate.

Six years ago, I came to the floor to wish my friend well in retirement, and

I used these words: [So that he could] enjoy the blessings of hearth and home.

Now, I am not so sure that he took my advice to heart. I recently learned that Tom has been moonlighting in retirement as an intrepid crew member sailing the icy waters of the North Atlantic. In fact, he joined the crew of 59 North Sailing for five voyages. His most recent adventure found Tom aboard *Ice Bear* navigating gale force winds in and around the rugged coastline of Newfoundland.

They say you can't take the farm out of an Iowa farm kid. The same must be true for a lifelong sailor and the sea.

Tom recently celebrated his 81st birthday in November. Barbara and I wish him many more trips around the Sun and as many adventures at sea that his heart desires.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, some Senators indicate they may attempt to move a privileged resolution to disapprove of the administration's proposed sale of advanced armaments to the United Arab Emirates, a critical partner in our fight against terrorists. It is a little baffling to suggest that now, of all times, a protest gesture with no chance of obtaining a veto-proof majority is of valuable use

of the Senate's time. But above and beyond that, the strategic realities dictate that Congress should not stand in the way of this sale.

In August, the UAE reached the first of the Abraham Accords, the landmark peace deal with Israel, brokered by the Trump administration, which Bahrain soon went on to reprise. That step, the first normalization of relations between the Arab nation and the State of Israel in nearly 30 years, cemented an important new chapter in the UAE's international relations and its close relationship with the United States.

Of course, it is a key American objective to preserve and protect Israel's quantitative military edge. Fortunately, Israel's Ambassador, Defense Minister, and Prime Minister have all made sure they are comfortable with this deal.

Senators considering this sale need to consider a reality we cannot escape. A significant competition for influence in the Middle East is underway, and China and Russia will be more than happy to meet the demand for advanced capabilities if the United States simply takes our ball and goes home.

If our colleagues make the Senate vote on this measure, I urge all my colleagues to vote against it.

### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ENZI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate are, to put it mildly, an impressive bunch. It always makes it a challenge to pay adequate tribute when one leaves our ranks.

But even by the high standards of this place, the course charted by the Senator, whom I have to send off this morning, stands out. The senior Senator from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ENZI, has accomplished enough in one career to fill two. He seemingly glided from business success to military service, to local government, to State politics, to the U.S. Senate, where he has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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built a remarkably productive legislative record.

MIKE's prolific career began in a small town. In fact, Gillette, WY, was so small when MIKE and his wife Diana arrived and stood up the family business, the town still carried the less-than-flattering nickname of "Dirt."

But new discoveries in the American energy business were in the course of changing everything. A major oil and gas boom meant more people. More people meant more sales at MIKE's NZ Shoes store—that is the letter "N" and the letter "Z."

MIKE could have just sat back and cruised, but MIKE saw Gillette struggling to keep up with the growth, and basic services were lagging. Nearly everyone who encountered him in town or in the junior chamber of commerce meetings concluded this up-and-comer had real leadership talent. I understand the final prod into public service came from no less a Wyoming statesman, our own former colleague, Al Simpson.

They had crossed paths. Alan had heard MIKE speak. He took the promising young man aside to tell him rather pointedly that his town sure did need a good mayor. To be precise, MIKE tells us the phrasing was typically blunt Al Simpson: "Put your money where your mouth is."

Our future colleague took it under advisement. But MIKE almost didn't survive long enough to announce his campaign. The way he told it on the floor last week, when he worked up the courage to relay that suggestion to Diana on their long drive home, she almost swerved right off the road. Fortunately, they were unharmed, and the more they talked, the more they liked the idea of making a difference.

So, at the ripe old age of 30, this up-and-coming businessman ran for mayor, and he won. On his watch, what could have been a municipal disaster became an economic golden age for Gillette. It didn't take long for the town's fortunes to become the talk of political minds around Wyoming.

After a few years off, the former Mayor ENZI was representing his neighbors as State representative and then as State senator. And just like water seeks its own level, talent tends to seek its best outlet. So, after squeaking out a close primary victory over his now-fellow Senator from Wyoming, JOHN BARRASSO, MIKE packed his bags for Washington in late 1996, and this body gained, at that time, its only trained accountant.

Now, MIKE knew that if he was going to properly serve his beloved State, he would need fellow Wyomingites working alongside him—people who shared his no-nonsense affection for careful planning and thrift in government.

One of his best decisions was persuading his longtime collaborator, the onetime town manager of Gillette, Flip McConaughy, to move to Washington and be his chief of staff. MIKE says he initially had 500 applications for that job, but none of them was the one he

wanted. The experienced salesman had to pitch his longtime friend on the opening, and it worked.

From Gillette to the Senate, Flip was MIKE's secret weapon—not just a staffer, but as MIKE tells it, a true partner in service for many years. When Flip passed away much too soon in 2016, this entire institution felt the loss.

MIKE's staff likes to say he has a whole collection of useful hats he can wear to approach Senate business: the perspective of a mayor or of a small business owner or a State legislator or an accountant or a Wyomingite. Well, that hasn't just been a winning combination for the people of Wyoming. It has benefited our entire country.

MIKE's trade secret has been what he calls the 80-20 rule. Across all the issues he tackled, he insists about four-fifths of the subject matter is potential common ground ripe for progress. He said: You just can't let the controversial 20 percent blow everything up.

Well, that approach made our colleague from Wyoming downright prolific. MIKE has been directly responsible for the passage of more than 100 bills. He has become a go-to leader on everything from budget, tax reform, and the deficit to AIDS relief and workplace safety. His sober, prudent approach—not to mention his practical experience keeping the books and making payroll—made MIKE exactly the sort of person taxpayers hope are managing their dollars.

He used budget resolutions to steer the Federal Government toward more sustainable fiscal help. He helped shepherd the first major overhaul of the Federal Tax Code in a generation. He has kept a watchful eye on the unintended consequences of legislation, such as the recent work to help relieve Main Street lenders from the one-size-fits-all burden of Dodd-Frank.

Back when Chairman ENZI was steering the HELP Committee, his Democratic counterpart was Ted Kennedy—a fastidious small-government guy from Wyoming and the "liberal lion" from Massachusetts. Call it the 80-20 rule's final exam, and they passed that exam. They worked together to create bipartisan outcomes on things like worker safety, pension reform, and mental health parity.

So, to be clear, there has been no lack of conservative conviction in MIKE's career. Just ask our Democratic colleagues about the times their debates with MIKE landed in the 20 percent, and that is when the gloves came off. This is the Senator one broadcaster in 2013 called "the Paul Revere of ObamaCare."

But MIKE never lost sight of the mission. He kept up the hunt for common ground, autism research, vocational training, and carried the torch for PEPFAR, the historic fight against AIDS in Africa.

MIKE's insatiable appetite for making a difference brought some interesting characters into his life. It turned out that quite a few high-profile celebrities

were happy to meet with one of this body's chief champions on the AIDS issue.

But let the record reflect that east coast, Washington, DC, life never spoiled MIKE. I heard from a reliable source that after wrapping up one meeting with Bono, the world-famous front man of U2 and a leader in the fight against AIDS, MIKE cheerfully offered the following parting remark to the well-established superstar: "Well . . . good luck with the band!"

If you have seen MIKE in action around the Senate—devouring details, mastering issue after issue—it is hard to imagine him making time for much of anything outside his work. But you would be badly mistaken, because one of the worst kept secrets around the Capitol is that MIKE is one of the very warmest Members of the Senate family.

As we prepare to bid him farewell, MIKE's colleagues may miss his wise leadership on legislation, but I suspect the loss will be greater for future classes of Senate pages, who will be denied the pizza and ice creams parties MIKE threw to celebrate their successes. The staff at a favorite nearby Mexican restaurant will miss a couple who, along with the Barrassos and the Grassleys, spent years ranked among their most devoted weekly visitors.

More than anything, I know the dedicated staff of the Senate, who don't get thanked enough—from the Parliamentarian's office to food services, to the Capitol Police—will miss the massive holiday cookie parties orchestrated by Field Marshal Diana Enzi.

Diana has organized the production of hundreds of dozens of baked treats every year. MIKE is more like her assistant in that endeavor. Their unstoppable tradition of giving back to our colleagues, even this year, encapsulates just what kind of hearts this couple shares.

As we know, these labors of love come on top of Diana's own important work, like her longtime focus on clearing land mines in Eastern Europe.

I don't mean any of this to guilt MIKE into staying, because MIKE always has his head on straight, his plans laid, and his priorities lined up. So he knows that even on our best days, the Senate can't hold a candle to the joys of the next chapter he and Diana have planned.

It turns out that the man whose Senate website includes a page of "Grandfatherly advice" is looking forward to more free time for delivering that advice to his own grandkids in person.

And I understand there are still several States in which MIKE has yet to cast a line. One of the Senate's most intrepid anglers will no longer have to plan around this body's schedule as he seeks to correct this oversight.

So, MIKE, while all of us here are sorry to see you go, I know our colleagues join me in wishing you "tight lines." We are so glad you brought

your mind and your heart here to this body. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the country you love.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I thank the leader for his kind remarks and incredible research. I particularly appreciate the comments about Flip McConnaughey, whom I worked with for 40 years before he passed away from cancer. If there was ever anybody in the United States who had a municipal problem, he would work with me as we grew Gillette, and he was able to solve a lot of those municipal problems. So he was the go-to person on the Hill for all of that.

I say to the Senator, I really appreciate those comments, as well as all of the other things you mentioned, particularly the ones about Diana. Without her, I would not have had the shoe store, I would not have been in politics, I would not have been here, nor would I have been able to do anything. I wouldn't have traveled around Wyoming. She does most of the driving so that I can work on speeches and legislation, and it is a chance for us to visit a little bit too. We don't get to do a lot of that here in Washington because of the schedules, again.

But I particularly want to thank you for your leadership during this time. It has been phenomenal, like the research that you did on that speech. The strategy that you put into legislation is incredible. You get a lot done, in spite of the differences we might have with the House or with the other side of the aisle or occasionally with the President, but you keep us moving forward. It is a talent that is hard to do under the circumstances that we work, and I really appreciate it. So thank you for your comments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to two Senators whom I had hoped to serve with longer: CORY GARDNER and MARTHA MCSALLY.

One of the first things that became clear about CORY GARDNER when he came to the Senate is that he is an incredibly hard worker. He is tireless. CORY has not only a great sense of humor; I remember back during impeachment when we were working some really late nights, he left 5-hour ENERGY drinks for all of us in our mailboxes.

I have to say, you kind of need a 5-hour ENERGY drink to keep up with CORY. Seriously, though, CORY has a tremendous amount of energy and focus and drive, and he has left it all on the field during his time in the Senate.

I think he knew when he was elected that he might not be here forever, and he has made every moment over the past 6 years count. He is a results-oriented person. He is interested in getting things done, and he has built an impressive record.

Serving the people of Colorado has been the first thing on his mind every day. He spent a lot of time working on Colorado priorities, from protecting our public lands to improving wildfire preparedness, to expanding healthcare access for veterans by ensuring the completion of the VA hospital in Aurora, CO.

He has also been a leader on foreign policy issues, specifically on the issue of holding North Korea and China accountable for their lack of freedom and their human rights violations, such as China's mass incarceration of Uighurs and its targeting of Chinese citizens who dissent from the Communist Party line.

CORY has also been a great friend to Taiwan. Among other things, he authored the TAIPEI Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, legislation that makes it U.S. policy to support Taiwan's efforts to strengthen its relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific and around the world. A free, prosperous, and safe Taiwan is in the interest of the United States, and CORY understands this well.

In addition to being one of the hardest working people you will ever meet, CORY is also one of the most pleasant. He has an upbeat personality and a contagious cheer, and committee hearings and meetings are always more enjoyable when he is around.

He has been called a happy warrior. I think it is a fitting title. He is an eter-

nal optimist. I don't mean that in a naive, wide-eyed sort of way. CORY is well aware of the challenges we face in our Nation and around the world, but he genuinely believes in our country and in our ability as citizens and as Members of Congress to make life better for our fellow Americans.

And over his 6 years here in the Senate, he has helped make life better for his constituents in all four corners of his State and for the American people. Nobody could have worked harder for Colorado over the past 6 years—nobody—and he has done more for his State in a single term than many have managed to do in twice as long a time period.

We were fortunate to have CORY here in the U.S. Senate. I will miss serving with him, but I look forward to seeing what he does next. Whatever it is, I am confident of one thing: It will be great.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, I didn't get as much time as I would have liked to work with MARTHA MCSALLY. She spent just 2 years with us here in the Senate, but she made the most of them.

MARTHA's record is well known: 26 years in the Air Force, multiple deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan, the first woman in U.S. history to fly a fighter jet in combat, the first woman in U.S. history to command a fighter squadron in combat, the Bronze Star, six Air Medals, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. And the list goes on.

I am a longtime runner, basketball player, sports fan, so I am pretty committed to exercise, and one of the places I got to know MARTHA after she came to the Senate was in the Senate gym. MARTHA was a regular there.

I have always believed that you can tell a lot about somebody by the work ethic that they bring when they are approaching physical exercise, something I saw growing up with my dad. He was a World War II fighter pilot who embodied the humility and quiet service that characterized the "greatest generation," and those traits carried over in his approach to sports. He was a basketball and track coach when I was growing up and, prior to that, the most valuable player for the University of Minnesota basketball team back in 1941.

He approached everything with humility and service. Those were the values that he emphasized the most. Your job as a member of the team was to make the team better, not to make yourself look good. And if the team needed you to make the basket, then great, but if the team needed you to make that extra pass so that someone else could make the shot, then that is what you did.

That is the way that my dad taught us, the way that he coached us, and I have always said and believed that you can tell a lot about someone by how they approach physical exercise and sporting events and that sort of thing.

I can tell you that MARTHA attacked it just like she does everything else. She approaches that with the same determination and intensity that she does in every other aspect of her life.

She pushes herself to her limits, and those are the qualities that she has displayed throughout her career, whether she was breaking glass ceilings in the military or fighting here in Congress to protect the A-10 Warthog.

She has made the most of her 2 years in the Senate, tying for the most bills signed into law during her first year. And Arizona has benefited from her tenacity and commitment.

MARTHA is tough and determined, but she is also kind and generous, all traits that were displayed in her farewell speech last week. There was a lot to admire in that speech. I was particularly struck by the gratitude that she displayed. A lesser person might have betrayed some bitterness at the brevity of her time here. MARTHA was just grateful—grateful for the opportunity to serve, grateful for the team who worked with her, grateful for what she was able to accomplish for Arizona.

I am grateful not only to have served with her but to have had her as a part of the whip team here in this Congress. Unsurprisingly, she was a dedicated and effective deputy whip, and I will miss having her on the team.

At the end of her farewell address, MARTHA said:

Today represents a change in seasons for me. I don't yet have clarity on what my next mission will be, but I do know who is the author and finisher of my faith and that He created each of us with a purpose.

I am confident that the author of our faith has more great missions in mind for MARTHA MCSALLY, and I look forward to seeing her take them on.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, everywhere you look, there are signs the country needs emergency Federal relief before the end of the year. Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are rising. COVID restrictions are snapping back into place in cities and States around the country. Economists are warning of a double-dip recession if Congress fails to pass another round of fiscal stimulus.

The situation is really quite simple. There are flaring needs in the country, and we need to work across party lines to pass legislation to meet those needs. Let me say it again. We need both parties to sit down and compromise on

legislation to help the American people. That is the only way to get legislation passed. But observers of this process seem to have lost track of this simple truth. The Republican leader seems to have forgotten about it entirely.

Amazingly, it has been over 8 months since Congress came together to pass the CARES Act, and the leader's position has not budged. The majority leader continues to insist that the Senate accept one of his partisan Republican proposals, each one of which has been sorely inadequate and each of which has contained poison pills designed to ensure the bill's failure.

The most conspicuous of these poison pills is the so-called "red line" the majority leader has tried to draw on the issue of corporate immunity. Contrary to the majority leader's dire predictions, there has been no flood of COVID lawsuits—in fact, quite the opposite. Almost a year into this pandemic, with nearly 15 million Americans infected and 280,000 lives lost to COVID-19, there have only been 111 COVID-related lawsuits filed regarding conditions of employment, 23 suits for personal injury for exposure to the coronavirus in a public place, and 11 COVID-related medical malpractice suits.

Far from a pandemic of lawsuits, there has barely been a trickle. Yet the Republican leader continues to prevent Americans from getting the aid they so desperately need and deserve until he gets this piece of partisan, ideological legislation. Again, yesterday, while the leader was busy accusing Democrats of blocking "bipartisan" legislation that "everyone agrees on"—his words—other Members of the Republican leadership were making it clear that Leader MCCONNELL continues to insist on this particular poison pill. The Republican whip said that any relief must have corporate immunity provisions that "satisfy Senator MCCONNELL."

Imagine holding emergency aid hostage—help for the unemployed, help for small businesses, help to pay the salaries of police and firefighters, help for individual Americans, funding to deliver a vaccine—in order to give corporations legal immunity. But that has been the Republican position for the past 8 months, and it is the leader's position today.

For the sake of bipartisan negotiations, Republican leadership should forsake these hard-line positions. You can't claim to want bipartisanship while actively demanding the Senate accept partisan legislation. "Bipartisan" does not mean Democrats must agree to whatever the Republican leader wants on whatever issue he picks. "Bipartisan" means both sides—both sides—sitting down and finding agreement to meet the needs of the country and make a law. That process is happening with the Gang of 8. It should continue until we get a solution.

#### NOMINATION OF NATHAN SIMINGTON

Madam President, the Senate will also vote on the nomination of Nathan

Simington, a Republican nominee to the FCC.

Normally, these nominations to independent Boards and Commissions are paired—one Democrat, one Republican—to keep balance on the board, but here in the waning days of a lame-duck Presidency, the Republican majority is rushing to approve a single Republican nominee.

The nominee himself is far from uncontroversial. Mr. Simington's key qualifications seem to be that he supports President Trump's desired changes to section 230, a law that regulates internet speech. In fact, it appears that he severely misled Senators on the Commerce Committee when he told them that while working for a Federal agency, he played only an administrative role in his Department's petition for the repeal of section 230. It turns out that Mr. Simington was not only pushing the petition himself, he was actively lobbying FOX News to support it for political reasons.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject Mr. Simington's nomination to the FCC.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Madam President, finally, as we approach the end of the Senate session, I have the unhappy task of bidding farewell to Senators who will be concluding their time in this Chamber. Within an hour, our dear friend and dear colleague, Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico, will give his final speech here on the Senate floor.

For the past 12 years, Senators have been lucky to work with a legislator of Senator UDALL's caliber, someone who possesses a mastery of public policy, who is practical as well as principled. You always know where Senator UDALL stands on an issue, but you also know he is always willing to sit with you and work with you until you find common ground. Because of these qualities, TOM will leave this Chamber as a supremely accomplished legislator, a fierce defender of the environment, and a true champion of the American West.

A lot of politicians get described as wunderkinds for getting elected at a young age. You would be hard-pressed to find someone who got their start in politics earlier than TOM. He made his debut at the plucky age of 5, hoisting campaign signs on the back of his dad's convertible during his dad's first bid for Congress.

Public service runs deep in the veins of a Udall. It might be called the sap of the Udall family tree. Alongside his father, TOM looked up to his uncle Mo, who succeeded his father in Congress and ran for President as one of his generation's great environmental advocates. Not too long ago, the Senate rollcall featured two Udalls, TOM and his cousin Mark. Even now, our colleague from Utah, Senator LEE, is a second cousin to the Udall clan.

Ultimately, it was TOM's dad who taught him a lifelong love of the political process. During the years Stewart Udall served as Interior Secretary, TOM

would watch from the living room as his dad sat at the dinner table surrounded by Democrats and Republicans alike—both sides at dinner working together. Those memories left a mark. TOM would spend his time in Congress trying to do much the same. TOM's work with Senator Vitter led to one of his greatest accomplishments in office: the first major revision of the Toxic Substances Control Act in 40 years. At the time, it was the most significant environmental law to pass Congress in over 20 years.

TOM also had become one of the Senate's leading authorities on Tribal policy, cosponsoring over a quarter of the bills that passed through the Indian Affairs Committee on their way to being signed into law. Legislation to improve Tribal access to affordable healthcare and funding to support Native American language preservation programs and boost support for Native American entrepreneurs all bear the Udall stamp.

When it comes to protecting our environment and public lands, no one commands greater respect than the senior Senator from New Mexico. TOM helped increase funding for the Department of Interior by 25 percent, including billions to protect our national parks and expand our wildlife preserves. Through the Great American Outdoors Act, TOM helped secure permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a fund his dad helped establish over 40 years ago.

One of TOM's favorite authors, Wallace Stegner, once wrote:

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed. . . . We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.

Well, TOM did a whole lot more than "look in." He preserved, he conserved, and he expanded the great American wilderness for generations hence.

These highlights, impressive as they are, are only the tip of the iceberg. Over his 12 years in office, TOM's legislative accomplishments ran the gamut of consumer protection, conservation policy, climate change, the protection of Tribal nations, and, most recently, a principled stand against the current administration's attempts to roll back critical environmental protections. Through it all, TOM has been unendingly civil, decent, and kind. He has deep friendships, real friendships, long-lasting friendships in our caucus and across the aisle. He prefers to solve problems, no matter who gets the credit, sometimes resisting the urge to make a splash in public.

Kidding aside, TOM is as down-to-earth as they come. There is just no artifice about him. He is a decent Senator and a man. You couldn't find any better. Other Senators will attest to these qualities, I am sure, and so will his staff—a tribute that is perhaps even greater. The respect and loyalty that Senator UDALL commands from those who work for him day in and day out is something extraordinary.

We don't know when a Udall will next grace the halls with their presence, but I do know this: Our country needs more leaders like TOM.

Senator UDALL once said his father and his uncle were lifelong role models because they had the right mix of inspiration and perspiration. He said: "They were both visionaries, but they were also doers." I can think of no better description of TOM UDALL himself—a visionary but also a doer.

TOM, as you move on to the next chapter in your life, I wish you and Jill the very best of luck on the road ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I thank Senator SCHUMER for those kind remarks earlier.

As you know, I announced last year that I wasn't running for reelection, and if I had known everyone was going to be so nice to me, I might have announced it earlier.

I am not the only Senator who is giving a farewell speech. Many of us got to hear LAMAR ALEXANDER last week. LAMAR is the perfect example of what a U.S. Senator should be. Before I was wet behind the ears in the Senate, in my first week here, LAMAR invited me and Jill, my wife, to dinner. There it began. Jill and Honey, LAMAR's wife, became fast friends, and LAMAR and I grew closer, building the kind of friendship that is essential here in the Senate. We worked together to get things done for our States in bolstering our National Laboratories and conserving our great outdoors. Something else we shared was Mario, our barber in the Senate barbershop. To be honest, that is the best place to learn the wisdom of the Senate—by sitting in Mario's chair.

Friendships like I have with LAMAR and Mario are what I will miss most about the Senate. It is the friendships because, as any good Senator will tell you, friendships are what get you over the finish line. I will cherish the friendships I have forged over the last 12 years.

I will miss serving the people of New Mexico in Congress. The greatest honor of my life has been doing that, and I am confident that New Mexico will be in good hands with my friend Senator HEINRICH, my great partner over the last 8 years. With his dedicated advocacy for our communities and his love of the land—all of that—MARTIN has been an inspiration, and Senator-Elect BEN RAY LUJÁN, whom I have the privilege of calling a friend, I know will fight for New Mexico families every single day in the Senate.

I will miss the righteous struggle we take up in these Halls to build a more perfect Union, and I will miss all of you—my staff, colleagues, and everyone who works around the clock—and the unsung heroes who keep the Senate running, people like John, Leigh, Mary

Anne, and all of the folks who are here in front of you. There are too many to thank.

First and foremost, I thank my staff. Every Senator here knows we are only as good as the people on our teams, and as my friend PATRICK LEAHY says, we Senators are often just a constitutional impediment to the staff. Over the years, I have been blessed with staffers who are full of talent, skill, drive, and heart.

I don't want to leave anyone out, so I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of all of my staff who have been part of Team UDALL.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ned Adriance, Anna Alexander, Beverly Allen, Anna Apodaca, Gabe Apodaca, Lauren Arias, Michael Bales, Paloma Arroyo-Lefebvre, Jonathan Black, Greg Bloom, Jessica Borchert, Billy Busch, Rene Camacho, Xochitl Campos, Jack Carpenter, Nick Carter, Sameer Chintamani, Dorcas Cisse, Leeanne Clark, Sarah Cobb, Emma Coghlan, Jennifer Collins, Michael Collins, Clinton Cowan, Tiffany Cox, Laura Creech, Walter Cross, Kevin Cummins, Cal Curley, Laura Davidson, Reyes De La Cruz, Sabrina De Santiago, Leticia Delgado, Francesca Di Palma, Kristine Dietz, Meredith Dixon, Noelle Dominguez, Elizabeth Driggers, Pablo Duran, Roger Duran.

Bobbie Ferrell, Rachel Fleischer, Meagan Foster, Tannis Fox, Claudette Frausto, Julia Friedmann, Jenna Frosch, Adam Fullerton, Ariel Garayar, Jack Gardner, Renée Gasper, Cara Gilbert, Fern Goodhart, Melanie Goodman, Marco Grajeda, Jessica Grubesc, Stephenne Harding, Jesse Hale, Emma Hamilton, Miranda Hernandez, Sierra Howlett, Cynthia Hull, Carolyn Ioe, Michele Jacques-Ortiz, Stephen Jochem, Michael Johnson, Alex Jordan, Michelle Kavanaugh, Edward Kellum, Sean Kennedy, Caroline Klaff, Stephanie Kuo, Talia Lapid, Jeffrey Lopez, Michael Lopez, Yesenia Luna, Jeanette Lyman, Rachel Marchand, Crystal Martinez, Jaime McCarthy.

Jake McCook, Amber McDowell, Everette McKoy, Matt Miller, Elisa Morales, Donda Morgan, Rachel Montoya, Raven Murray, Tom Nagle, Ben Nathanson, Matt Nelson, Casey O'Neill, Annie Orloff, Steven Ortega, Bianca Ortiz Wertheim, Marissa Padilla, Matthew Padilla, Olivia Padilla, Russell Page, Carmela Quintana, Anna Rael Delay, Eddie Render, Alyssa Roberts, Kelly Romero, Rene Romo, Ken Rooney, Zachary Rosenberg, Carlos Sanchez, Joshua Sanchez, Ben Salazar, Laura Salgado, Alethea Scally, Alicia Schreiner, Anthony Sedillo, Kelly Seibert, Leo Sheehan, Sam Simon, Alyson Sincavage, Joshua Sisneros, Jeffrey Stein.

Jake Stewart, Kristina Swallow, Tomas Talamante, Jennifer Talhelm, Michael Thorning, Xochitl Torres Small, Patsy Trujillo, Lisa Van Theemsche, Roberto Vasquez, Anna Vavruska, Andrew Wallace, Daniel Watson, Zoe Wilson-Meyer, David Williams, Devon Wohl, Bill Woldman, Timothy Woodbury, Veronica Yoo, Jan Zastrow.

Mr. UDALL. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you for your hard work, your public service, and your commitment.

I want to thank my family—my parents Stewart and Lee Udall, who instilled in me the will to do good and to be good.

To my brothers, sisters—my sister Lori, who is here—and cousins who

have supported me throughout my three decades in elected office, thank you.

To Amanda, our daughter, who is my forever campaign manager, and to Judge Jim, our son-in-law and just recently a judge in New Mexico, I thank them for their constant love and support.

Most importantly, thank you to my brilliant and beautiful partner of 42 years, Jill Cooper Udall. Jill has been my rock. She has been my chief counsel. She has been my everything, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner with whom to have this public adventure.

It has truly been an adventure for this son of the West, for after 20-plus years, it is time for me to go back home. As the great western writer Wallace Stegner wrote, "It is not an unusual life curve for Westerners to live in and be shaped by the bigness, sparseness, space, clarity, and hopefulness of the West—to go away for study and enlargement and the perspective that distance and dissatisfaction can give—and then to return to what pleases the sight and enlists the loyalty and demands the commitment."

Stegner said that we fall into two categories. We are either boomers or stickers. Boomers "pillage and run." Stickers are "motivated by affection, by such a love for place and its life that they want to preserve it and remain in it."

I am telling you here today that I am a sticker. I am also an optimist. I want to be more accurate: I am a troubled optimist. I have tried to open my eyes to the challenges we face, while never losing conviction in our ability to meet those challenges.

As the scientist Rachel Carson said, one way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

I believe this Nation has arrived at a moment when we are opening our eyes to the enormous challenges before us and also to their solutions. Our planet is in crisis—facing mass extinction and climate change. Our people are in coronavirus—ravaged by a pandemic that has laid bare the inequities of our society. Also, our democracy is in crisis as the people's faith in their government is shaken.

We cannot solve one of these crises without solving the others, and that is why I am troubled, but all I have to do to be optimistic is to look around me. I look at the young people across this country who are calling for change, for climate action, for voting rights, for immigrant rights, and for economic, environmental, and racial justice. They have held sit-ins in my office—probably in yours too. They are demanding that we do better, and their determination gives me hope. I am optimistic as I look back on the small acts of kindness and the big acts of progress that define my time in the Congress. I believe that there are lessons in these accomplishments.

Now, you may know me as someone who wants to reform the filibuster, but to be clear, I have always supported the talking filibuster. So, if you will indulge me—and by the rules of the Senate, you have to; you can leave, but I get to keep talking—

(Laughter.)

—I would like to talk about a few of the highlights of my career and what I have learned from them.

As you know, protecting America's outdoor treasures is a cause close to my heart. It is something of a family project. My family homesteaded in the West almost 180 years ago, and like generations of Udalls before me, I grew up with a special connection to the land—to the gorgeous, untamed beauty of the West, to the 60-mile vistas, to the snow-covered, rugged mountains, alpine lakes, and abundant wildlife. MITT ROMNEY knows this, for our great-grandfathers settled the same small western community. Stegner called the West the "geography of hope." It sure is for me. It is what has inspired much of my public service, and that is why I am so proud of what we have accomplished together to conserve our natural heritage.

On the Appropriations Committee, we have worked together for resources for our public lands and environmental protection, on a bipartisan basis, in the face of massive proposed cuts, and we have held off anti-environmental riders that have had no place in these bills.

Thank you to my friend LISA MURKOWSKI, who has been the best partner I could ask for in this work. In New Mexico, where public lands are central to our way of life, we have had enormous success unlocking tens of thousands of acres of enchanted land for all of us to enjoy—and for MARTIN to hunt on every now and then. Each of these efforts was collaborative and community-driven, and that collaborative work has culminated in one of the biggest conservation victories in American history—the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. Thanks to the determination of a grassroots coalition and many champions here in Congress, we got this bill over the finish line.

For the first time, we have realized the promise of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—the promise my father envisioned almost 55 years ago, when he helped to create our Nation's most successful conservation program. After more than 20 years of fighting for this in Congress, I am thrilled we have gotten it done, and we have gotten it done together.

The law is a model for how conservation and economic recovery can go hand in hand. It will help us to achieve the urgent goal of protecting 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. Enacting the Great American Outdoors Act, at a time of immense division, is a tremendous feat, and it tells us a lot about what we are capable of. It tells us that conservation is popular—a political winner. Environmental protection can be an area of cooperative ac-

tion, and it must be if humanity is to survive and prosper.

As I talk about my love of the land, I cannot neglect to acknowledge how much I have learned from the original stewards of this land—Native Americans, indigenous people. I got my start in politics by working with my father in fighting alongside the Navajo uranium miners who had been hurt and many who had died. They had been hurt by this Nation, by our nuclear weapons program. My work as vice chair of the Indian Affairs Committee has been the honor of a lifetime and another area in which this committee has achieved bipartisan progress.

I thank my chairmen, Senator HOEVEN and Senator BARRASSO before him, for their partnership and friendship. We have worked together as a committee for better healthcare, education, housing, and urgently needed resources for Native communities, especially as they battle this pandemic.

The Federal Government's obligation to uphold its trust and treaty obligations is sacred. Some of my proudest achievements have been the result of working with Tribal leaders to advance the Indian Country's priorities and to support New Mexico's 23 Tribes.

Recently, a bipartisan coalition passed legislation to strengthen the principle of Tribal self-governance, provide Native entrepreneurs critical resources, and secure investments in Native language revitalization.

The achievements I remember most fondly are ones like these—those we did together. Indeed, those are the only kinds of achievements that are possible in this body.

Take the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act—our landmark reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act. It was the biggest environmental reform in a generation. I was proud to lead that effort to protect our families from toxic chemicals. It was hard work, and it took years. But if you can get a project where JIM INHOFE and ED MARKEY are working for the same goal, you can get a lot done around here.

It is another example of how friendships get you over the finish line. My friendship with David Vitter, my partner on TSCA reform, was sort of like Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch's friendship, a political odd couple—me, the son of Mormon pioneers; David, a son of New Orleans—two very different political backgrounds and different views on the big problems before us.

But I will never forget the dinner we had after Frank Lautenberg passed away, when we decided to take on TSCA reform. We looked at each other after that dinner and shook hands and said: We are going to get this done.

And we did. It passed the Senate unanimously. We agreed that there was a problem, and we found common ground on a solution. That is still possible in the Senate.

But I didn't come here to just list accomplishments. You can check my

Twitter feed if you want to see more of that. I do want to share some final thoughts about challenges our Nation faces before I leave the Senate.

I believe that, for all of us here, public service is a calling. It certainly is for me. In my life I have had the privilege of learning from many dedicated servants. One of them was Senator John McCain.

Senator McCain was a friend to me and a friend to my family. When John first came to the House, my Uncle Mo—big Uncle Mo, 6 feet 5 inches—took him under his wing. John did the same for me, and we worked together on issues like campaign finance reform, Native American issues, and others.

John often said to me: “We disagree in politics—but not in life.” Let’s remember that. “We disagree in politics—but not in life.”

My great-grandfather helped settle St. John’s, a small farming and cattle community on the Arizona-New Mexico border, in the 1880s. He had an embroidery that hung on his frontier home that read: “If the good folks don’t get into politics, the scoundrels will take over.”

I believe there are a lot of good folks here in the Senate, but the system we are caught in makes it too hard to work together. We need to remember that we disagree in politics but not in life.

I am not the first to say in a farewell address, and I won’t be the last: But the Senate is broken. The Senate is broken, and it is not working for the American people.

We are becoming better and better political warriors. We are good at landing a punch, at exposing the hypocrisy, and at riling each other up, but we aren’t fostering our better angels. Our peacemaking skills are atrophied. Every hurt takes time to heal, and each time we hurt each other, it sets us back.

But, unfortunately, the structures we have built reward us for hurting one another. We need to reform those structures or we will never make that progress we need to make.

I have proposed Senate rules changes when I was in the minority and when I was in the majority to make sure this institution does not remain a graveyard for progress.

The Founders did not envision a Senate requiring 60 votes to act. The filibuster came to be through historical accident, and it is now woven into the institutional framework. The promise of the filibuster is that the majority will find common ground with the minority, but the reality of the filibuster is paralysis—a deep paralysis.

On top of this, we have a campaign finance system that is out of control. John McCain told you that over and over again, and he called money the cancer growing on our democracy. And John McCain knew a lot about cancer.

Secret money floods campaigns to buy influence instead of letting the

voters speak. Voting rights are under attack. We can do our best to be good people in a system like that, but it is no surprise that America’s faith in government is declining.

These structures are antidemocratic. They reward extremism. They punish compromise.

Our government is supposed to respond to the will of the majority while protecting the rights of the minority. Instead, we have “the tyranny of the minority.” That tyranny is super wealthy, politically powerful, and dangerously out of touch with the American people.

The majority of Americans support pandemic relief, healthcare for every American, action on global warming, racial justice and police reform, and so many other priorities that don’t see much progress in the Senate.

People are losing their faith in the system—rightfully so. We have to do something to fix this.

If we are to take bold action necessary to tackle the urgent problems before us, we must reform our democracy. We must make it easier to vote. We must end the dominance of Big Money, and we must root out corruption.

And we do not have any time to waste. We have no choice but to be bold because the crises before us demand bravery. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are dead from a pandemic—a pandemic that this administration has callously ignored, a consequence of its continued rejection of science. In New Mexico, we have surpassed 108,000 cases, over 1,700 are dead, and tens of thousands have lost their jobs.

Meanwhile, our Nation is facing dual climate and nature crises of epic proportions. Earlier this year, much of the American West was engulfed in wildfire. As an arid State, New Mexico is in the crosshairs of climate change. We lose a football field’s worth of nature every 30 seconds.

A million species are at risk of extinction because of human activity. Our planet’s life support system is under threat. As the climate crisis worsens, ecosystems are destroyed, and as ecosystems are destroyed, we emit more harmful greenhouse gases. We cannot solve one crisis without solving the other.

Protecting nature is about protecting humanity. It is just that simple. And marginalized communities, communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous people are bearing the worst consequences of the environmental destruction and pollution caused by the rich and the powerful.

We have the power to solve these crises—the power and the obligation. All it takes is clear eyes and political will and remembering that we may disagree in politics but not in the future that we want for our children.

When I was a young man, I spent the summer of 1969 in the mountains of Colorado, teaching students wilderness skills. Each night, we would look up

and open our eyes to the Moon. It seemed impossibly far away.

I am reminded of Rachel Carson’s words: “One way to open your eyes is to ask, what if I had never seen this before?”

When we emerged from the wilderness, we learned what *Apollo 11* had achieved. We had landed on the Moon—the Moon that seemed so impossibly far away.

We should never forget that we can do—we, all of us, can do—the impossible when we open our eyes to the challenge and work together to meet it.

So as I return home to the West, I am clear-eyed about—even troubled by—how far away our destination is. But I am optimistic that we will get there, like we always have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, it is my honor today to commend the senior Senator from New Mexico, my longtime partner in this Chamber, my good friend TOM UDALL, for his years of service to our great State of New Mexico and to our Nation.

Before I speak about Tom, I would like to quickly take a moment, too, to recognize the service of Congresswoman XOCHITL TORRES SMALL over these last 2 years.

Congresswoman TORRES SMALL actually served for a time in Senator UDALL’s office in Las Cruces, and for these last 2 years in the House of Representatives, she has dedicated herself to delivering resources for the people of southern New Mexico. And I am so very grateful to have served alongside XOCHITL in our congressional delegation, and I am greatly looking forward to seeing how she will contribute her heart and her talents to New Mexico next. She certainly learned a great deal from our senior Senator.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Now, let me tell you a little bit about our senior Senator, TOM UDALL.

One of the first times I ever spent any serious time with TOM UDALL was actually on horseback. Tom was serving at the time as the Congressman for northern New Mexico’s Third Congressional District, and I was leading a group called the Coalition for New Mexico Wilderness. Together, we rode into rugged mesas and canyons east of Las Vegas, NM—that is the original Las Vegas—that I hoped would soon be designated as the Sabinoso Wilderness.

It was clear right away that Tom shared my sense of wonder in the outdoors and wild places and a strong commitment to protect those precious landscapes for future generations, and despite his day job walking the Halls of Congress, he was pretty comfortable on that horse of his—much more so than myself.

More than a decade later, Tom and I would repeat that horseback ride in Sabinoso, alongside President Trump’s then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

We were both serving in the Senate by this point. We had successfully

worked together to establish not just the Sabinoso Wilderness but also the Ojito Wilderness, the Columbine-Hondo, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Now we were working to convince Secretary Zinke—someone I might describe as a bit of a wilderness skeptic—to sign off on the Bureau of Land Management's acceptance of a generous land donation by the Wilderness Land Trust. This land donation would finally open up public access to the spectacular opportunities in the Sabinoso, which was then actually completely landlocked by private lands, and it would substantially grow the Sabinoso Wilderness area.

A couple of hours of both of us riding into Canyon Largo alongside Secretary Zinke, alongside local sportsmen and public lands advocates and community-elected leaders, accomplished what months of testy congressional hearings and office meetings and phone calls here in Washington, DC, could not. Just days after his visit, Secretary Zinke announced that his reservations over accepting new wilderness were assuaged and that he would approve the donation at the Department of Interior.

Thanks to those efforts and that horseback ride, for years to come, all New Mexicans and all Americans will be able to visit this stunning wilderness that we all own together.

This story is but one example from Senator UDALL's long career that demonstrates how bringing people together, even those who may have major disagreements—especially about politics—can still help to find common ground and forge a path forward. That is one of the main lessons that I will always take with me about the example that Senator UDALL has set as such a principled leader.

TOM has devoted his entire career to serving the people of my State. As our State's attorney general, TOM took on major challenges, from curbing pervasive drunk driving to domestic violence, to prosecuting unethical and corrupt elected officials and protecting consumers and seniors from all manner of predatory scams.

Then, during his 10 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, TOM fought to deliver for northern New Mexico's communities. He stood firmly against the Bush administration's tax cuts for the wealthy. He opposed the misguided invasion of Iraq. He called on Congress to rein in the civil liberties abuses in the PATRIOT Act.

TOM was first elected to serve our State in the U.S. Senate in the exact same year that I was first elected to Congress. It has been a privilege to sit in a front-row seat during this time while he led our State's congressional delegation.

I believe that all of us in this body can agree that there are few greater examples than TOM Udall in embodying

the best of what it means to be a Senator.

Over his two terms in this Chamber, TOM has showed us all how to act—to act with decency, to act with integrity; how to stay true to your principles but also how to find the deliberative compromises that have become all too rare in today's Senate. TOM knows that to get anything done, especially in this era of extremely polarized party politics, you need to be able to bring people together, to break bread, to have the patience to work through disagreements, and to focus on results, not politics.

That was perhaps best demonstrated in his ability to pass a landmark, bipartisan overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act—likely one of the greatest environmental law achievements in the last decade. TSCA is just about the most complicated piece of law that you can possibly imagine; however, the powers that it grants to the Environmental Protection Agency are some of the only things protecting us, standing between us and many harmful chemicals.

In the last decade, it became increasingly clear that the original law, which had passed back in the 1970s, was simply no longer effective and required significant reforms, but getting a new law passed had proved to be practically impossible for many Senators who had tried for years to get this done.

Because of all the major industry interests, disagreements from various groups, TSCA reform had become one of the many things that conventional wisdom simply said would never get done, especially in today's gridlocked Congress. But TOM did not take no for an answer. He took on the years-long, daunting challenge of convening an incredibly wide range of stakeholders to get the details right and successfully steered a new law all the way to final passage. I believe TOM Udall was successful in this precisely because of the way that he stands up for his principles with moral clarity.

At a time when our democracy has felt fragile, TOM has led the way in fighting the corrosive effects of dark money in our politics. He championed voting rights, and he called for rules reforms to make this body, to make this Senate work for “we the people” once again.

Through his role on the Foreign Relations Committee, TOM has held administrations from both parties accountable for responsibly exercising American power overseas.

He has been a steadfast champion and ally for Indian Country, fighting for water access, education, healthcare, and law enforcement resources for Tribal nations.

For years, TOM has called on us to finally confront the climate crisis that threatens New Mexico's land and water and, frankly, the future of our country and our planet. I have been so proud to partner with TOM over these last years to pass landmark protections for the

natural resources and public lands that we in New Mexico all treasure. Our children and future generations will see the legacy of TOM's conservation work for years to come.

Finally, it goes almost without saying, but I am confident that TOM's leaving the Senate will not mean leaving behind his lifetime commitment to service—in fact, far from it. Whatever his next chapter brings, I am certain that TOM will never stop looking for ways to help the people of New Mexico, although I do hope he will find the time to get outside, to spend time in a remote mountain pass from time to time or on a fast flowing river.

It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to serve alongside Senator UDALL for these last 12 years and to fight together to deliver resources and results for New Mexicans.

Thank you, TOM, for everything that you have taught me and for everything that you and Jill have done for New Mexicans and for Americans. Julie and I certainly wish you the best in this next chapter in your life, and it has truly been my honor.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I stand today to give tribute to my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from New Mexico, TOM Udall, who was assigned to be my mentor when I first arrived in the Senate nearly 10 years ago.

Over a series of meetings we had over breakfast, lunch, and in our offices, TOM mentored me and tutored me on the rules of the Senate. He took the time to explain the nuances of the filibuster and how the Senate has deviated from the rule as it was originally designed. The concept is not a familiar one, nor is it intuitive, and yet TOM was able to explain it to me in a way that was simple and easy to understand and helped me grasp the passion that he has for addressing that issue and for reforming the Senate for the better ever since then.

He had a way of doing it that didn't make anyone feel demeaned but made them, rather, more enthusiastic about making the Senate a better place in which to work, operate, and legislate.

I have no idea whether the person who assigned TOM as my mentor knew that TOM and I were related, that we are second cousins, that his grandmother and my grandfather were brother and sister, or that my grandmother on the other side of the family was his U.S. history teacher at James Fenimore Cooper Intermediate and Junior High, but our paths seemed destined to cross.

I didn't know TOM well growing up, although I knew his father Stewart, and I knew his Uncle Morris. TOM was already off to fame and stardom by the time I came along, but I knew his family long before I got to know him. In many ways, they saved the best for last.

Even though I got to know your dad and your Uncle Morris before I got to

know you, I tremendously enjoyed getting to work with you. You and I come from similar parts of the country, from some of the same ancestral pioneer stock, and we have very different ideas. Yet TOM Udall has always been someone with whom I have been able to communicate freely and frankly and from whom I have always heard positive, uplifting communication, even when we disagree, which happens from time to time.

Thank you so much for your service. It has been a pleasure getting to work with you as a colleague. I wish you and Jill the very best success and happiness in your future endeavors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Senator UDALL and I came here in the same class 12 years ago. It is hard to believe that 12 years have passed. How can that happen so quickly? We have seen the Senate in various chapters as it sought to address the big challenges facing America.

Colleagues have already noted TOM's intense advocacy for the wildlands of the West and the poetry that he brought to it in his speech today with Mr. Stegner's reflections on the majesty and importance of the wildlands of the West and all of his efforts to protect those lands.

Colleagues have mentioned how, when folks thought it couldn't be done, he dived into this partnership with Senator Vitter to drive the Lautenberg Toxic Substances Act and got it accomplished through months and months of intense negotiations.

He cares about the function of this body and has shared with us idea after idea on how we might make it work better—ideas that we should still work to consider in the months and years ahead.

As he thought about protection of lands, he thought about protection of the oceans and the role of plastics in the oceans. He spearheaded efforts for us to reconsider how we produce so much plastic waste and where it ends up and the damage that it does—a vision that others will have to carry the baton on after his departure.

He has stood up fiercely for the constitutional vision of a nation and a government of, by, and for the people, that money is not speech, and that corporations are not people.

TOM, thank you. Thank you for fighting for the vision of our Constitution, for a government that can and will take on the issues facing us. We will miss you. I personally hope that you will have a major role in continuing to advance the protection of those wildlands in the West in the near future. All my best, and take care in your next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, just a little reflection on TOM Udall and working together on the Indian Af-

fairs Committee that I chaired, and he was the ranking member. I will tell you that I will miss my friend TOM Udall.

Bobbi and I will miss your life partner Jill as well. We are so grateful for your friendship and your leadership in this body.

When Senator UDALL started today on the floor, he mentioned that he was a son of the West and mentioned that it is something that runs in the family. Madam President, TOM's father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior of the United States. If you go to the Interior Department office, you will see it is the Udall name on the building because of this ongoing commitment and love that the Senator has spoken about today.

What many don't know is the relationship between Wyoming and the Udall family. It was Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, who came to Wyoming with a young President a number of years ago. That President was John F. Kennedy. It was September of 1963.

I went back to the archives at the University of Wyoming and found photos of TOM's dad and the President at the time, John Kennedy, and a number of Wyoming leaders at the time. I gave copies to TOM and to Jill to share the bond of our States.

It would surprise many, I think, in this body to know that I have a picture, actually, of John Kennedy hanging in my office up in the Dirksen Office Building—John Kennedy addressing the crowd at the University of Wyoming Arena-Auditorium in September of 1963.

As TOM this morning talked about conservation, John Kennedy talked of conservation that very day that he gave that speech with your father on the stage, together so many years ago. At the time, John Kennedy talked of the living balance between man's actions and nature's reaction to it and the living balance that must exist.

So, today, I come and thank my friend for his stewardship, for his leadership, and for his friendship, and I say this with a great deal of appreciation and admiration and respect.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor someone whom I have had the good fortune of working with both in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. Senator UDALL and I spent a long time together, and I am very, very grateful.

I want to take a step back just for a moment and say that in American political history there are certain names that carry a legacy. There are the Roosevelts, a family of great means who, nonetheless, understood the deeply personal pain of the Great Depression and helped bring a nation through it. There are the Kennedys, a family that for generations has been near the center of American power and popular culture. And there are the Udalls.

Now, the Udalls have never been flashy. They might not be the equivalent of political royalty. You might find the Udalls more likely to be in cowboy boots and jeans than expensive suits, but they are a family that is deeply rooted in public service, protecting the people and the places of the West, and just being some of the kindest, hardest working, most decent folks you could ever meet, period.

Senator TOM Udall has certainly lived up to his family's legacy during his long career in public service. New Mexico is so fortunate to have been represented by him, and I feel so fortunate to have him as my friend.

TOM, it has been such a pleasure to work with you on so many different issues. You talk about the land, and I talk a lot about water. And even though you are not surrounded by the Great Lakes, as we are, you have been as passionate in working with us to protect our beautiful water, as you have with other natural resources. So thank you for protecting the funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Also, I thank him for ensuring that our community health centers receive full funding, for strengthening rural communities, and for improving services for our veterans.

I appreciate so much your leadership in the bipartisan efforts, and I was proud to support you and help on tax reform. I have been so impressed by your work on clean energy and on protecting the wild places that make our States so special, and, of course, your work on reforming the Senate and shining the light of day on money and politics.

I am so grateful for your strong leadership on the Indian Affairs Committee and your hard work and advocacy—so effective in advocating for our Nation's Tribes.

You have also set yourself apart through your work on Foreign Relations and on keeping our Nation safe. I will never forget our trip to Vietnam and South Korea last year. We were, over the Easter weekend, flying in Southeast Asia, and it was such a wonderful moment when Jill organized a Passover Seder for everyone on the plane—what a special moment on this bipartisan trip. It brought everybody together to focus on our common humanity and what we are each called to do, which is to serve others.

Whatever the future holds for you, I have no doubt that you will continue serving the people of New Mexico and this Nation, and I believe we have more than benefitted from your leadership. Public service, that is what Udalls do.

Senator UDALL, congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for a job well done, and so many best wishes to you and your life partner Jill and your entire family. You have been a real blessing not only to New Mexico but to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I just really want to thank Senator UDALL for his commitment to public service. When I think of a person of his talent, his expertise, and his effectiveness, he has devoted his entire life to public service to make New Mexico better, to make America better, and for global justice. I just really want to thank him for his many years of public service. I know that he has not finished his commitment to try to help our community, but we are going to miss him on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I had a chance to work with Senator UDALL when he and I were in the House of Representatives, and we worked on so many issues—from the environment to justice issues, to integrity in the process to make sure our system of justice, our system of law, and our system of legislating meet the high expectations of our democracy. We know that we can do better to form a more perfect union. We are on that path, and we can do better. And thanks to Senator UDALL, we have done better, but we still have a road ahead of us.

So, you are an inspiration to all of us. We want you to know that. We love you. We greatly admire your service to this body and to our community. As has been said by others, we are not only going to miss your relationship on working with issues here; we are going to miss the friendship and seeing you on a more regular basis.

We know that your life partner Jill has been a steady supporter of what you have done. So on behalf of your colleagues in the U.S. Senate, we say thank you for a job well done. We are proud to have called you our friend and associate, and we will continue to work with you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I had the privilege of knowing TOM UDALL's uncle when I served in the House of Representatives. He was not only a great leader, but he was a funny man. I have repeated some of his lines and jokes so often. I don't even give him credit anymore. I hope his family and his memory will forgive me.

I have often repeated his prognosis for politicians. Morris Udall said: Once you get politics in your bloodstream, only embalming fluid will replace it. I have often thought of what drives us, the men and women of the Senate and the House, to continue to engage in this life's work of politics, with all the cost that it incurs in our lives. Clearly, we are driven by something more than just comfort.

To my friend, TOM UDALL, let me say I am glad you proved your uncle wrong. As much as I wish you were staying with us for a while longer, I know that you are not leaving public service. You never will. You are just leaving this chapter.

In the Udall family, public service is a noble tradition. Your uncle always served with honor in the House for

three decades. Your cousins—Mark Udall, MIKE LEE, and Gordon Smith—have all served in the Senate. Your father, Stewart Udall, answered President Kennedy's call for the best and brightest and served as President Kennedy's Secretary of the Interior.

I want to mention one footnote that should never be forgotten, particularly at this moment in history. When we watch the NFL and their dedication to the notion of Black Lives Matter, they should remember that over 50 years ago, it was your father, as Secretary of the Interior, who said to the NFL football team that was using RFK Stadium that they had to integrate and bring in their first Black player or he wasn't going to renew their Federal lease on that premises. He changed, overnight, the fate of that Washington football franchise when it came to the issue of race. That shows the kind of leadership which 50 years later looked so visionary.

But when it comes to preserving America's national treasures in the 20th century, the Udall name ranks right up there with Teddy Roosevelt. Roosevelt was a giant of conservation. He believed that we have a moral obligation to preserve our planet and the treasures of it for future generations.

I have no doubt that your father and your mother would be proud of your service in the Senate. You have carried on this legacy with such perfection by preserving America's irreplaceable national treasures. I have vivid memories of two majestic national monuments that are in Utah—Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. President Obama showed real leadership in creating those monuments, and you have led the fight to preserve them through the current administration.

The passion with which you spoke about the history and importance of these treasures is something I will never forget. I was proud to cosponsor your proposal, the ANTIQUITIES Act, to make clear that only Congress can alter the list of protected national monuments. Thank goodness we have public servants like TOM UDALL, who is willing to fight to preserve a piece of this world so that future generations can see it as God created it. Your "30 by 30 Resolution," which you cosponsored with Senator BENNET of Colorado, is another example of creative, innovative Udall "conservationism."

Your efforts to preserve America's most sacred treasures do not end with open spaces and a healthy environment. You have also been a brave and tireless champion of the need to preserve the fundamentals of our democracy. Along with your efforts to protect national monuments, you also led to preserve the delicate balance of powers envisioned by our Founders. You were the lead sponsor in this Chamber in the For the People Act to protect voting rights, strengthening government ethics, and changing the way congressional campaigns are funded—a bill that I have built on myself to try to protect our body politic.

Our goals were always the same: to break the grip of special interests on our politics and government while making it more affordable for men and women with good ideas but without massive wealth to run for Congress. These last years have shown us how fragile our democracy can be and how much work we have to do to restore people's faith in government.

I want to point out one particular bill—TSCA. Tom, I will never forget what you did with that. I don't know how many months—maybe even years—that you weathered on despite opposition, not only from the other side of the aisle but sometimes from our side of the aisle, to get this issue into perspective. There were chemicals that were being put into things as basic as furniture that American families had no idea would be dangerous.

I have never forgotten this image. You told this story on the floor. To think that that cushion on your couch is treated with some chemical that could be harmful to individuals and that every time you, as a father, sat down on that couch and pulled that baby close to you, you could have been spraying chemicals in that baby's face. I thought about that ever since you gave that speech and how much work you did to make sure that we remedy that wrong and that we gave notification and clearance before these chemicals were being used in products that American families didn't even know about. I gave you my word that I would push hard with you on that. I was just one of the soldiers in the back of the ranks, but I was proud of every moment of it.

I wish you and your wife Jill a special happiness in the next chapter. Jill, of course, is originally a native of St. Louis, and I grew up across the river. We had many fun times talking about her youth and reminiscing about mutual friends. She is just an exceptional person herself, and you know it and I do too. To your daughter Amanda, I wish an equally happy and healthy future. As our friend John Lewis might say, may you continue to find ways to get into good trouble.

In this Senate, you have been the voice for so many people who had no voice. You have chosen to be an advocate for Native Americans. And if there is ever a cause which every single Member of the Senate and the House should take as their own, it is to bring justice to this group of people who were here before us and were not treated well by this government.

I will close now with a thought from one of their great leaders, Sitting Bull. In negotiations with the Federal Government, Sitting Bull advised: Let us put our minds together and see what future we can make for our children.

This is the spirit which TOM UDALL has brought to the U.S. Senate in every aspect of public service. It has been an honor to work with you, Tom. I wish you all the best because you are the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I know we are about to vote, and I will speak further at another time about Senator UDALL, but I just want to tell him what I told you—all of you—what I said to him when he finished speaking: In my 46 years here, it is one of the finest and most moving, heartfelt, honest speeches I have heard. I have also sent a note, I say to Senator UDALL, to Jill Udall to tell her how great you are, but I think she probably knew it. But I will speak further at another time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my brief remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I want to say a few words about leadership. When I think of the word “leadership,” I think of TOM UDALL.

Leaders are humble, not haughty. Leaders have the heart of a servant. They realize that our job is to serve, not to be served. Leaders have the courage to stay in step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune. Leaders unite, not divide. They build bridges, not laws.

Leaders surround themselves with the very best people they can find. When the team does well, the leader gives the credit to the team. When the team falls short, the leader takes the blame.

The best leaders among us realize they don’t build themselves up by tearing other people down. Leaders are aspirational. They appeal to our better angels.

Camus—a Frenchman—used to say that leaders are purveyors of hope. Leaders seek to do what is right, not what is easy or expedient but what is right.

Leaders embrace the Golden Rule: Treat other people the way they want to be treated. The Golden Rule is in every major religion on the planet. He embodies it.

Leaders believe that we should pursue excellence in everything we do. If it isn’t perfect, let’s make it better. And when a leader knows that he or she is right, they just won’t give up. They don’t give up.

Those are the qualities that we all admire in leaders. To be totally honest, I fall short on a number of them. And I guess if we are all truthful, we would all say the same thing.

He doesn’t fall short on any of them. TOM UDALL is the personification of what a leader should be and a friend as well.

I just want to say thanks to his parents for raising him, bringing him into the world, and putting him on the right path, giving us a chance to serve with him.

I also thank Jill, his wife, for being just a terrific partner with him. When

we were stuck on TSCA—the Toxic Substance Control Act—she came to the hearings in the committee. He was no longer on the committee, but she came there, and everybody could see on her face that we better get this right or we were in trouble.

The reason we had to pass the Toxic Substance Control Act is that the Federal law that we passed a quarter century ago before didn’t work, and every other State stepped in and decided to have their own State version. It was a patchwork quilt. It just didn’t work. He pointed it out and made it happen, made a change, and I just will always be grateful for that.

The other thing I want to say is that he is a friend. I think if you talk to anybody here, they would say that he is a friend. I don’t care if you are a Republican or a Democrat; he is a friend.

My wife and I and our sons, Christopher and Ben, had the opportunity at the end of an Aspen Institute seminar in Tanzania, which was just an incredible experience, to stay for 4 or 5 days afterward and just travel throughout, go on a safari, and have a chance to see amazing things—amazing things. When it was all over, we went back to the airport in Tanzania, the Kilimanjaro airport, to catch a flight back to the States. I will never forget. Our son Ben, who is our younger son, said to his mom and dad and his older brother: That was the best vacation we have ever had.

We talk about things we share with one another, but that is one that is especially close to my heart.

Godspeed. God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of

five years from July 1, 2019, shall be brought it a close?

The yeas are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Sasse
Burr	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Murkowski	
Enzi	Paul	

#### NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—4

Harris	Perdue
Loeffler	Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, thank you to the people of Colorado for this incredible honor that you have lent to me these last 6 years to serve you in the U.S. Senate.

Thank you to my family—Jaime, Alyson, Caitlyn, Thatcher, to Mom and Dad and Lisa—who supported me in this last decade of service with your love and sacrifice, through missed ball games and lost teeth, school concerts and junior high dances, sore throats and first moments.

Thank you to my incredible staff, many in the Chamber today, who are in Colorado and Washington, who made so many great things happen and whose difference will be felt for generations to come. You leave a mark on the country far beyond the etching of a signature on a desk on the floor.

Thank you to my colleagues and to Senator BENNET for the honor of serving along your side and for your commitment to our Nation—and to the Capitol Police, the staff, to the support staff in the Senate who make it all possible.

But above all, and most importantly, thank you to this great and extraordinary Nation for all that it means and represents—the hope and optimism that for over two centuries has led people around the globe to give up everything they have just to be here; to be a part of this Nation, to then turn around and fight for it through political strife and pandemics; to go to war to save the Union; to know how lucky and blessed that we are that out of all of the billions of people through the thousands of years of human history, we have had the privilege of being here in this place at this point to be a part of it.

There has been a lot of coverage in the news lately about how the pollsters got it wrong. But one thing they seem to get right—and it won't come as a shock to my colleagues on the floor: Congress is about as popular as a Rocky Mountain oyster in a bullpen.

We have been, together, able to do many good things, and I hope that we can use those successes to drive even more successes and show the American people that faith in this institution is actually well deserved.

Over the last 6 years I have worked hard to pass the first-ever mandatory sanctions on Kim Jong Un and North Korea to denuclearize that regime. It was an honor to work with Senator MENENDEZ throughout this process.

Senator MARKEY and I led the passage of the first-ever comprehensive strategy for a free and open Indo-Pacific, the Asia Reassurance Initiative.

GARY PETERS, along with LAMAR ALEXANDER and me, led the reauthorization of the America Competes legislation to keep the United States competitive in science and engineering, to get more women and minorities into the STEM fields, and to advance our scientific research and discoveries.

The 988 suicide prevention bill that TAMMY BALDWIN and I were able to pass into law represents the first bill in American history to pass the Senate and House unanimously with LGBTQ-specific language. This bill will save lives.

I was honored to help move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Colorado and to finally get funding for the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit, and I helped lead the passage of legislation to complete our VA hospital in Colorado, to advance our cybersecurity, and to foster our relationships with Taiwan, South Korea, and beyond.

And it was an honor of my time in the Senate to work with LAMAR and Senators MANCHIN, CANTWELL, HEINRICH, WARNER, KING, PORTMAN, DAINES, and BURR on the Great American Outdoors Act, the holy grail of conservation legislation.

In my first remarks on the Senate floor, I spoke about how no matter where across Colorado's four corners that you live—or across this great Nation—we all hope for the same thing for our children: to live in a loving home that values every citizen; that they learn the value of hard work and perseverance; where hard work is met with merited reward; that they find a nation of liberty and freedom that they help make a little bit more free and a little bit more perfect. All of us here in the Senate, the American people—all of us—are responsible for the starting point that we hand off to the next generation, and we have a moral obligation to make it the best starting point possible.

The accomplishments that we have had together truly have helped create more opportunity for the next generation, and the work that we continue to do to get through this pandemic together will ensure that the next generation can indeed take advantage of those accomplishments and that the starting point for them is better than the generation past despite the struggles of today. You know, in Sunday school we learned an important lesson about this—that struggles and tribulation produce perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And since that very first speech that I gave on the Senate floor, I have come to recognize something that all of us—that everyone here—has undoubtedly experienced—that our service to country is filled with moment after moment that gives us that lump in the throat, that brings a tear to our eyes, that fills our hearts with wonder for this Nation.

Perhaps it happened to you when seeing the majesty of the United States Capitol brightly shining in all its glory on a crisp State of the Union Address night or maybe when we hear the passion in the voices of our colleagues as they tell the story of life and struggle and hope for the future. For me, these moments happen every day, and I am sure they do for you as well—just part of the wonder of this Nation and its Capitol.

It was late at night for me nearly 10 years ago when I was leaving the Capitol building. I had walked through the Hall of Columns, and I heard some voices ahead near the door that I was heading toward. When I turned into the

corridor, I saw a Capitol tour guide pointing at a phrase that was painted on the wall. I looked at it and read it too. It was William Jennings Bryan, and painted on the wall were these words: “Our government, conceived in freedom and purchased with blood, can be preserved only by constant vigilance.”

I looked at the group reading it, and there in the center of them all was a young veteran in a wheelchair with bandages around his knees where his legs used to be. The gravity of this place, that moment, and the duty that we owe to this Nation struck hard.

As I walked home, I kept thinking about it—about those words, about that moment, about that veteran, about this Nation and our responsibility. I thought about how that wall was painted with that phrase, but there are others that are blank and empty, spaces that have been left empty so that future generations can fill them in with their history—with new portraits and new phrases and new moments. But no matter the moment in time or the point in history, it is the same patriotic responsibility that we owe to this Chamber—to defend and serve our Nation, her Constitution, and the American people.

George Washington in his Farewell Address said that the name “American” must always exalt the just pride of patriotism. He spoke of our Constitution and how it must be sacredly maintained and that virtue and wisdom must stamp every act. And despite the differences over policy and politics, it is our Union that ought to be considered as a main prop of our liberty, and that love of the one ought to endear us to the preservation of the other.

I believe that is what LAMAR ALEXANDER very eloquently spoke about on this very floor in his farewell just days ago. It is our country and the unity of nation that, despite our differences, will help preserve and will preserve our liberty.

Washington offered his advice in his farewell as an old and affectionate friend—a friend who recognized our obligation to create a better starting point for every new generation.

But how do we heed this advice in a world of viral social media, click bait, and sound bites?

Colorado Senator Bill Armstrong once said that while he was firm in his principles, he was flexible on the details. We all come to this place because of our core values and beliefs about this Nation. Those principles make us who we are. They drive our actions. They drive our debates. But, today, it seems as though we live in a world where tactics are elevated to the same status and importance as principles, and staying true to principle means that the tactics used to achieve that principle are elevated to the same importance as the principle itself. It is always my way or the highway. Senator Armstrong's flexible details would now be derided as violations of principle.

We cannot govern when every tactic and detail is elevated to the level of principle. There is no compromise with this approach. We cannot find ways to bring people together for that unity of nation of which Washington spoke when the test for principles becomes so impossible to pass that only the very factions that he warned against can prevail.

To my staff I often talk about this challenge as being one of the pillar and the paint. The pillars in a building are more than just ornamental. They are structurally necessary to the building itself. The pillars are our principles. They make us who we are. But the paint color—the details—we can figure that out together.

We can respect the pillar and find agreement on the paint. We can hold people's principles in place, respecting those core beliefs that make you who you are, while finding ways to work together to find solutions to common challenges. That is how we pass the test of unity that brings people together, respecting principles while achieving solutions, because not every detail is a principle, and not every principle is a detail, and we need a legislative body that can recognize this. By doing so, we will follow through on the advice of Washington and preserve our liberty with unity of nation.

Too many people have given up on the institutions of their government, and it is my hope that the American people will find this pillar-and-paint approach to be one that can make a difference because if they believe it—they believe that it will—then the American people will make sure their values are reflected in the representatives they elect.

Several years ago, I had the honor of meeting a man named Donald Stratton. He came to my office accompanied by his family and the family of a sailor named Loren Bruner and the family of another sailor, Joe George.

They were looking forward to yet another commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941—79 years ago yesterday. Both Donald Stratton and Loren Bruno were on the USS *Arizona* when it was attacked. Donald Stratton was on one of the ship's towers. He was surrounded by flame and surely believed that he would perish, when out of the chaos of that morning came a rope thrown by a yet-unknown-to-him sailor by the name of Joe George, who was aboard the USS *Vestal*, which was moored next to the USS *Arizona*. This rope saved Donald Stratton's life and several other shipmates.

No one knew their lifeline was thrown to them by Joe George until years later. Once they learned who it was, they spent the rest of their lives fighting to get Joe George honored and recognized by the Navy.

I was honored to be a part of that effort, and, finally, on December 7, 2017, led by Donald Stratton and the *Arizona's* remaining few, Joe George re-

ceived the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor aboard the USS *Arizona* Memorial, with Donald Stratton attending one last time. He was fighting for this country and his countrymen to the very end.

When I asked him how he did it, how he survived the attack and those flames and got back into the fight for this Nation, he chuckled, he laughed, and he gave me an answer that I truly didn't see coming at all. He said: "Well, Cory, everybody has to be somewhere."

Everybody has to be somewhere. He is right. We are here in the U.S. Senate. Most of you will still be here next Congress. Don't waste this opportunity to be who this Nation needs you to be at this moment of great challenge, to recognize the difference between the paint and the pillar, to know the difference between a principle and a tactic, where to take a stand and where to stand together, to bring a nation together in unity for the preservation of liberty, to recognize that to be American carries with it the greatness of a nation forged by fight and fire, tempered by wisdom, and made great by men, like Donald Stratton, who recognized that their duty and their time didn't just end with the last calling of the roll. Everybody has to be somewhere. Make it count for this Nation that you are here.

If you go into any of my offices, you will see on the wall my mission statement, and it ends with this:

We represent a State where the words to "America the Beautiful" were written—we will always look up to the Rocky Mountain horizon in the work that we do and remind ourselves that only through our actions will God continue to shed his grace on our great nation.

Ours is a Nation founded on the optimism that no generation waits for the next to be told where to go. It is the great American horizon that compels us to continue to reach ahead, to rise, to achieve, and to believe in America.

Ten years ago I sat on the floor of the United States House of Representatives as we prepared—some of my colleagues here with me—to be sworn into the 112th Congress. I watched with our daughter Alyson patiently sitting by my side as the peaceful transition of power took place—the hallmark of our Republic. As the most powerful constitutionally prescribed Member of the Congress, the Speaker of the House gave the gavel to a newly elected Speaker without gunshot or war, peacefully transitioning to a new majority.

Today, I speak on the Senate floor with a heart of gratitude. As I leave, with a new Congress set to begin, I go home not because of or due to the threat of violence or revolution but because of the same constitutional governance that has given this country over two centuries of strength and certainty—a jewel among nations, exceptionally blessed by God.

It has been a privilege to serve with you for this country. We owe every

man, woman, and child that lives here our commitment to them to not pass on to the next generation a nation that is in decline or retreat but a nation that rises, a nation that reminds itself that ours is a country worth fighting for, a nation that believes in itself, because when you believe in America, when you believe in this country, the world has not seen anything yet.

Thank you to my colleagues. Thank you for the honor of serving with you.

And, Madam President, this kid from Yuma yields the floor.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about my colleague from Colorado, Senator CORY Gardner—a kid from Yuma, as he described himself a minute ago—and to recognize the work that we have done for our State together in a bipartisan way.

Over the past 6 years, one of the most common and sometimes surprising questions I have gotten from reporters and constituents was: How is your relationship with Senator GARDNER? Can you work together with Senator GARDNER?

It is really an innocent question, but I have come to think about it as a reflection of the sad state of our politics and the Senate for the moment, in particular. Behind the question is the assumption that because CORY is a Republican and I am a Democrat we, somehow, can't work together for the benefit of our State. That hasn't been the case, far from it.

Sometimes he would say and sometimes I would say that we felt like there were times when we were working together better than States that were represented by two people from the same political party.

In this Congress, Colorado is 1 of just 10 States that isn't represented by Senators from the same party. Think about that—just 1 of 10 States with a split caucus in this body, just 10 out of 50. You would think it would be a lot higher, given how evenly divided we are as a country.

A lot has been written about the divide in our country today, and one of the divides is the rural-urban divide in America, which reporters like to talk about. In our delegation, CORY and I have tried to bridge that and, I have to say, it has helped a lot that CORY was born and raised in Yuma, CO, a town on the Eastern Plains with a population of 3,500 people, roughly. It is the place where CORY grew up, working in his parents' implement dealership—the red tractors, not the green tractors—where community tradition and ties to the land, like a lot of places in our State, run very, very deep; a place where rush hour means getting behind a tractor.

It is a beautiful place, and CORY was kind enough to invite me to Yuma after he was elected. During that visit we made a commitment to work together despite our political differences,

which we certainly have, and that is exactly what we have tried to do over the past 6 years. We worked together on legislation to ban Members of Congress from becoming lobbyists. I tell my colleagues today that I think there would be no bill we could pass that would do more to lift the reputation of this body than that one. Over half the people who leave here don't retire but become lobbyists. It was hard to find somebody to cosponsor that legislation. CORY saw the benefit of it, and we have been fighting for it ever since.

We wrote bipartisan legislation to prevent government shutdowns; to make our energy grid more resilient; to secure funding, as CORY mentioned, for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, a critical water project that Washington has been promising Colorado since John F. Kennedy came to Pueblo, when he was President.

We fought to hold the VA accountable to care for our veterans across the Rocky Mountain region. With CORY's leadership, we fought to keep the U.S. Space Command in Colorado. We partnered to fund critical improvements to our infrastructure, from I-25 along the Front Range to the South-west Chief.

And just last week, Senator COLLINS, 127 years after Colorado became the first State to grant women the vote by popular referendum and 100 years after ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Senate passed our bill to install America's first outdoor monument honoring the women's suffrage movement here in Washington, DC.

That was typical of the legislation that we carried together, because the idea actually came from Fort Collins, CO. It didn't come from Washington, DC. So many of the best ideas that we worked on together came from Colorado. CORY is a student of Colorado history and the country's history, and he understands the significance of a bill like that.

Over the years we have worked together late into the night to help communities across our State get back on their feet after devastating floods, wildfires, the Gold King Mine spill of 2015, and now the COVID-19 pandemic, where CORY's leadership was absolutely essential.

I could go on all afternoon.

The point is, even though CORY and I have had plenty of differences over the years, there is a real record of bipartisan accomplishment for our State, and one of the reasons for that is because, whatever our differences on policy, I have never for a moment doubted CORY's commitment to serving the interests of Colorado and his genuine appreciation for what makes us the best State in America.

In a lot of ways, CORY has embodied many of our State's best qualities. We are a young and restless State, and CORY has represented it always with energy and with drive. Agree with him or not, you can't say he hasn't worked hard every single second that he has been here.

You have probably also heard that Colorado has 300 days of sunshine a

year. As it turns out, so does CORY Gardner. It is probably why my staff always told me to smile more at our events together. He has been a consistent source of warmth and optimism in a body desperate for both. He has brought a lot more of that to the Chamber than I have, and I have been trying to make up for it now that he won't be here this year.

All of that is to say that I have been extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Senator GARDNER over the past 6 years to do a lot of work together for our State.

On a personal level, I would like to say to his family that I also want to say how much I appreciated the consistent kindness CORY and Jaime have shown to me and my family, even at moments that have been difficult ones for them.

My staff are also deeply grateful for the close collaboration with CORY's team over the years, and I want to thank them for their extraordinary work.

I know there are a lot of folks today who have things to say about my colleague from Colorado. So let me just end with this. Serving in this body, as he said, is an enormous privilege, but as everyone here knows, it does not come without a cost, especially for a parent with young children. I have watched CORY, as his kids have begun to grow up, put his family first at all times and our State a close second behind them. To watch him get on a plane, as I did this week, with his family and the care and attention he paid them is a reminder to me—and has been over the last 10 years—of what is really most important.

I will miss our work together, but I suspect Senator GARDNER is not done with his contribution to the country, to the State of Colorado, and to his community, and I look forward to continuing our work together in whatever capacity he ends up choosing to serve. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, CORY Gardner and I first met in 2011, when he became the first alumnus of the United States Senate Youth Program to be sworn into the House of Representatives. As the first Senate Youth Program delegate elected to the U.S. Senate, I felt an immediate connection to this new Member of Congress from Colorado. One year, both of us had the privilege of addressing the student delegates to this wonderful program that had made such a difference in the lives of both of us.

Since he joined the Senate 6 years ago, CORY has demonstrated his leadership on many issues which we have heard described today. His upbeat personality and his commitment to compromise, to solutions, and to bipartisanship have had a positive influence on this Chamber. As the renowned columnist George Will once called CORY, he is "a human beam of sunshine." I am sure that is the phrase that was going through the mind of his colleague from Colorado.

His approach to legislating has indeed been enlightening, but it has been his positive approach to every problem that we encounter, his upbeat personality, his wonderful smiles, and his problem-solving devotion to America and to his State that have distinguished him.

CORY's landmark achievement, which he discussed today, is the Great American Outdoors Act. I was proud to cosponsor his legislation. This historic bill, at long last, fully and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides funding to address significant parts of the multi-billion-dollar national parks maintenance backlog. The Great American Outdoors Act will help to ensure that both current and future generations can enjoy the pristine beauty of our natural treasures in Colorado, in the great State of Maine, and throughout our country. CORY's hard work to bridge the partisan divide and secure support from both sides of the aisle leave a lasting legacy that the American people will cherish. I would note that he never gave up in his pursuit of seeing this landmark legislation signed into law.

That is typical of the approach that CORY takes. He doesn't give up. He persists. But he does so in such a delightful way—always in search of a solution—that it is very difficult for his colleagues to ever say no to him.

CORY's commitment to environmental stewardship extends from the great outdoors to the frontier of technology to advance the development and deployment of energy from renewable, sustainable, and clean energy sources.

CORY, as was mentioned by Senator BENNET, has also been a champion for those who have served our Nation in uniform. In 2017, a troubling GAO report revealed an unacceptable trend of VA facilities failing to report healthcare providers who made major medical errors to the boards responsible for tracking dangerous practitioners, or, in some cases, revoking or suspending their licenses. As a result, these practitioners can go into private practice from their work at the VA or simply move across State lines without disclosing prior performance problems to either patients or State regulators.

To solve this serious problem, CORY introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act. His bill, which passed the Senate unanimously, helps to protect patients by requiring the VA to disclose major errors committed by its medical providers.

Time and again, I have seen CORY put into practice the values that the Senate Youth Program imparts to high school students—a deep respect for our enduring system of government, a dedication to public service, and a willingness to work in a bipartisan spirit to get the job done.

It has been such an honor and a great joy to serve with CORY in the U.S. Senate. I am certain he will continue to serve his State and his country, and I wish him and his family all the best. Thank you, CORY, for all you have done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, well, some farewell speeches are different than others. I think this farewell speech should very much be just a momentary pause for us to think about what comes next.

CORY Gardner is incredibly accomplished. He has been good for the Senate. He has been great with his colleagues, and he has been, beyond that, even more constantly focused on Colorado.

He has become, for me, a valued personal friend. Our families, for whatever reason, from almost the first time we spent any time together, sort of gravitated toward each other and continued to do things together. And why not? Jaime is great. CORY is that beam of sunshine that Senator BENNET and Senator COLLINS both have talked about, 365 days a year. He is optimistic. He is determined. He is realistic. Those are all three pretty doggone good characteristics for a successful legislator. He also continues to figure out, OK, that didn't work and what can we do that makes that work in some other way, to be determined to get the job done, to be realistic about how an obstacle can be in the way and understand how to come together and make all those things work.

Now, Senator COLLINS, particularly, mentioned that long list of truly great legislative fights that CORY has successfully led in. One of them we worked together on has been the effort to be sure that people who weren't able to get broadband—people in rural areas and people in urban areas who maybe had broadband but couldn't afford it. By the way, I think that is the next big fight about broadband. It is not just accessibility but also, even though it may be running right by where you live, how do we work in ways that assure you are part of it.

In little towns like I grew up in or CORY grew up in, it is the difference in whether you can compete or not. We have seen that so dramatically in the last few months, where kids going to school without the ability to have that access were dramatically hampered by that. People who couldn't use broadband for mental health or telehealth and people who just couldn't live where they prefer to live because they didn't have the connectedness they need to have are hampered by that. That is a fight that CORY has been in the middle of, and he understood it only maybe as you would understand it if half of your State is vertical and the other half is horizontal. You have got to figure out how to get the connectedness you would like to have.

The second century of the National Park System, one of the truly great American miracles, will be dramatically different than it would have been otherwise because of the legislation that CORY led on. In thinking about the future of that system and thinking about the future of the country, I remember one of the first stories I heard CORY tell, after he got here, in a small group of people. I think his son Thatcher was headed out the door that he wasn't supposed to be going out, and CORY said: That reminds me of one of my speeches late in the campaign. I was done. I thought we were all done. I look around, and Thatcher's shoes are still on the platform, even though Thatcher shouldn't have ever been on the platform.

And as CORY goes back to pick up Thatcher's shoes, he holds them up and says: This is why I am running. This is why I am running—for this little pair of shoes and all the other pairs of shoes that represent the future.

I think CORY has done an incredible job here focusing on not just the present but the future. Frankly, as Senator BENNET said, I am personally interested in seeing what comes next in the future of a person and a family who have so much to offer and are willing to offer it in service to others.

This is a day that I am ready to look and see what the next chapter of the Gardner story looks like and I think it is going to be optimistic and I think CORY will be smiling all the way through it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF NATHAN A. SIMINGTON

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to vote against the nomination of Nathan Simington to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

We definitely want the FCC to focus on commonsense consumer protections, universal broadband, and the survival of our news and local journalism industry as it faces unbelievable and unfair competition and practices by the tech sector, and we also want to make sure that the next President of the United States also gets to choose their member and representation to the FCC.

The Senate has a tradition of confirming Commission nominees in pairs to ensure equality on both sides of the aisle. I think moving this nominee without that democratic paring is contrary to what we have usually operated under in good governance.

Every Member of this body should be concerned about setting a precedent

and what it will mean in the future if we don't have essential consumer protections and oversight in this important institution.

We need high-quality, affordable broadband for the underserved and the unserved. That includes Tribal country.

We need to make sure that we are working hard as a result of the pandemic and for people to understand that broadband is now essential to our healthcare, to being able to work, and certainly to the education of our children. According to the AP, 16 percent of families with children have no access to broadband, and we need to make sure that all students have the tools for distance learning.

We need to make sure that Washingtonians have access to broadband for healthcare centers and clinics and to make sure that their initial contacts can be done online, just to help us in fighting the pandemic.

Especially, we need to preserve a free and open internet that is not divided into haves and have-nots.

The innovation economy is so important to my State, but it is important to the entire United States, and we need to have nominees who will fight for these policies, to get them implemented. That is why it is important that we look at FCC Commissioners.

Mr. Simington was before our Commerce Committee. We had another nominee whom the White House abruptly, unexpectedly pulled from its renomination—Commissioner O'Rielly—just days after the committee reported that nomination to the Senate, allegedly because he spoke his mind and because he did not agree with the President of the United States. Mr. Simington was nominated instead just a few weeks later, coming from NTIA, which asks the FCC to issue rules.

It raises questions in my mind about the White House's choice in Mr. Simington, particularly given these issues as it relates to the FCC and key responsibilities. I have questions about his neutrality and independence on issues before the Commission and about whether he aggressively and actively sought the media attention to personally and explicitly direct pressure onto the FCC. This involvement might sound insignificant or just partisan to some, but it is so important for the FCC to continue to play an important and independent role from the President of the United States.

So I hope we will not pass the Simington nomination. But I am emphasizing to my colleagues that the President will deserve his nominee as well, and I hope our colleagues will move quickly to confirm them once they are nominated.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Madam President, I also wanted to take a couple of minutes to discuss action that all of us have been working on on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, and that is the action that has now resulted in the National Defense Authorization Act which we will be taking up

but which is certainly being considered in the House of Representatives today.

The reason this is so important to emphasize today is that in this legislation will be the Coast Guard bill and recognition of the fact that we truly are an Arctic nation.

Well, some of you may have said: Well, I think we already got geography; we knew we were an Arctic nation. But this is the first time that we will be authorizing a fleet of six icebreakers for the United States of America.

Some people think: Well, why is that important? What is so important about icebreakers? Well, certainly to the Northwest Passage and the ability to move cargo and to move people and to new transportation routes, it is very important.

When you look at where we are in the United States of America with an icebreaking fleet, we don't compete with other nations that have been able to access and transverse those waterways because they have somebody who can clean the waterway and make it safe and secure. That is why we need, in the United States, to have an icebreaking fleet beyond the capacity we have today, which is two vessels but basically not the full capacity of those two vessels.

This is why it is so important for us to put the money and investment into a program to get us icebreakers so that we, too, can look at this northern waterway and passage and say to the United States of America and to the world community: Yes, we will be in the Arctic as well.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle realize that this is a very bipartisan issue, that it is a national security issue, and that it is an environmental issue. It is about us and making sure that we communicate.

I have also supported additional language about an Arctic shipping Federal advisory committee. A committee made up of representatives from Federal agencies, including the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and others would be part of a process to ensure that our Arctic efforts are better coordinated and impactful.

So I hope that my colleagues will look favorably on this legislation.

We all know how important the Coast Guard is to our Nation and an example of that icebreaking capacity, but there are other aspects of this Coast Guard bill that we are also proud of—making sure that it works more robustly with fishermen on fishing safety; doing more to examine the impacts of tar sands; making sure that our orca population is saved from noise impact and further reducing that impact on our orca population; and instituting new reforms within the Coast Guard to really help empower women, to make significant investment in the 40 percent of the workforce of the Coast Guard that are women and to make sure they have what they need—vital childcare opportunities for Coast

Guard families—and to make sure there is zero tolerance in the approach for any kind of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

So with these improvements over all, I would like to thank Chairman WICKER, Senator SULLIVAN, and Senator MARKEY for working on all of these issues. I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI, as I said, for the Arctic Shipping Federal Advisory Committee and many people who are helping us get to this point, to say not only do we recognize geographically we are an Arctic nation, but we are going to do something about it by making sure we have the capacity on this waterway to be heard and seen and to help the commerce that is going to emerge from the new developments in the Arctic.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, four different times in the last 4 months, we have had votes on this floor to talk about COVID relief. There is a real need to be able to give relief to a lot of people in my State, and, quite frankly, in States around the country.

There are individual items that need to be done that are unfinished. I think we need to actually finish them. We have this week and next week to finish the task at hand. We have 12 appropriations bills. We have a national defense authorization. But in my State, people want to know most what is going to happen with COVID relief. Where is that going to go?

Well, apparently, now we can actually have the debate. After the election was over, Speaker PELOSI announced that she was ready to actually negotiate the bill now that the election was finished. Well, great. Folks in my State have actually been waiting because four times in the last 4 months we brought up bills that were serious bills to be able to actually debate this out and to get the aid that is needed to be done, starting with additional money for distribution for vaccines.

The first vaccine will come on market by this Friday. It will be in arms by this weekend or at the latest, Monday, in my State, in Oklahoma.

As I visit with the people in my State who are in charge of the distribution, they have a terrific plan that they are engaged in to work with healthcare providers across the State to give them first access. For these folks who have been living in PPE for months and months and months, to now have the opportunity to get a vaccine will be a tremendous gift to them. It is incredibly important that this happen.

I do want to congratulate the folks in the science community, the folks who are at Operation Warp Speed in the White House, and so many other individuals who worked so incredibly hard to take a vaccine from first identification of the virus to a vaccine in 11 months. That is remarkable speed to get something done, though I have read recently that the New York Times is now putting out this quiet little accusation that the Trump administration didn't buy enough of the Pfizer vaccine, and the rest of the world is going to get it. The Times just conveniently leaves out that the administration actually purchased 700 million doses of the vaccine from multiple different manufacturers very early on, taking the appropriate risk to say that we don't know which one is going to be successful, so let's try to purchase from all of them, not knowing if six of them will be successful or if one of them will be successful. It was the right strategy then. It remains the right strategy.

In addition to the fact that the Pfizer vaccine is coming out first—which we are all very grateful for—it is 95 percent accurate as far as setting aside the virus. It is 100 percent effective against severe outbreaks of the virus. It is a remarkable vaccine, but it has to be stored at negative 70 degrees. There are very few places in my State and in many other States that have an ultracold freezer that maintains that. It is a great vaccine, but it is limited in the way that you can actually distribute it quickly.

There is a Moderna vaccine that is coming a week later that we will actually have twice as much of, but it doesn't require the same ultracold storage.

So this first round of vaccines will be coming to my State by this weekend, another round of vaccines from another manufacturer by next weekend, and by the end of this year—in just the next few weeks—we will have 20 million people who will get vaccinated.

That is a great start, but, clearly, there are another 300 million people to go. By the time that we get to the end of February, we will have 100 million people who will have been vaccinated, and that doesn't even count the additional vaccines that are coming online.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single-dose vaccine. It should be online in February. That is very significant to us because that will also provide us tens of millions of additional individuals who can be vaccinated. We could very well be completely vaccinated as a country by the time we get to this summer. We could be completely vaccinated with the most vulnerable in our population—everyone in our healthcare, every single nursing home, every single skilled nursing, every single assisted living, and all those with high-risk conditions like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and individuals with diabetes and heart disease—those individuals could be completely vaccinated

by the time we get to February. That is just 2 months away. We are finally getting close.

But we do need some additional dollars set aside for the distribution to actually get to that point. We need additional dollars for testing. We have done 200 million tests on COVID-19. I have had several of those. Most everyone in this Chamber has had several. Most everyone across my State has had several to evaluate them. I always tested negative. I am grateful for that. There are many people who still continue to get that testing. We need to continue that.

We have individuals across my State and across all of our States who need access to the Paycheck Protection Program. This was a risk that we took in March to try an assistance for individuals in a completely different way, knowing that the unemployment assistance in all of our States is antiquated and would be overrun by individuals. There had to be another way to sustain individuals who would be unemployed and to sustain small businesses to not go out of business as we go through this.

What we created was something called the Paycheck Protection Program. I was honored to be a part of that small group who helped write this and dream it out. It was for small businesses and not-for-profits, and for the first time ever, included faith-based not-for-profits, knowing many of them are key safety nets in our communities across the country. We could not lose that safety net during the time of the pandemic.

I have had individuals who have asked me over and over again for two key things in the Paycheck Protection Program: No. 1, please make it clear how to get final forgiveness to close this out. There are literally millions of small businesses that have a paycheck protection loan. They want to get forgiven, but the process of going through forgiveness is so complicated they are struggling with closing that out. They want to get it done.

There is an easy way to do it that KEVIN CRAMER has actually coordinated and led in this body. Senator CRAMER's work has been remarkable and tenacious to help guide us to a simple solution to get to individuals and businesses that took out loans of \$150,000 or less, to get forgiveness for that in a simple process, in a single-page attestation to be able to do that. That needs to be included in whatever we are doing.

We need to have a second round for those businesses that are the hardest hit.

Let me tell you an example of that. I had a business leader of a small business in my State just yesterday, and this is part of his email. He said: It sounds like there is a chance for another relief bill. I hope that is true. We are expecting—our sales have fallen through the floor again. With the change in weather and rising case counts, we have lost over 50 percent

year over year, and I hear the same from many of my counterparts. It is highly likely we will have to go through another round of furloughs in January. Honestly, it would probably make sense now, but we are not going to do that to anyone through the holidays. We are hoping for some assistance to keep people on payroll and benefits. At worst case, if there is no relief for us, I hope there is additional unemployment coming so people aren't destitute. It may be April before we are able to support our business based on our own revenue.

These comments are not uncommon from many others I have received. They can make this and have a viable business but just not in this kind of environment right now.

What are we going to do about that? Well, I have recommended not only the attestation for forgiveness for small businesses but also a second round to allow those who have been through the small business Paycheck Protection Program to go through it again and get a second bite of that apple short term for the hardest hit businesses and also to allow some of those businesses that are legitimate small businesses to actually get a first shot.

Many people don't know that not-for-profits, including faith-based not-for-profits and small businesses, all got access to the Paycheck Protection Program if you were supported by donors or by a bank or credit union. But if your business was organized by private equity, and that was your original capital, you couldn't get access to the Paycheck Protection Program. So thousands and thousands of small businesses were out simply based on where they got their original capital from to open their business. That is not right.

When we have the second round of paycheck protection, we should at least allow some of those other small businesses to get a first round through this process. We need to continue what we are doing for not-for-profits.

Our safety nets are very clear in America. Our families are our first safety net; our second safety net is our not-for-profits; and our third safety net is government—State, local, and Federal. That second safety net that is out there that is so important in our communities, we need to do what we can to support them.

In the CARES Act, I helped put in a provision there that would give every American a \$300 deduction on their taxes above the line, even if they don't itemize their taxes. They can get a \$300 straight deduction from their taxes if they will give to a nonprofit. They can pick any nonprofit they want to give to—the arts community, the homeless community, those that are helping with mental health, those that are helping with food programs, churches, synagogues, mosques. They can choose any nonprofit they want to. If they give to a nonprofit, every single American gets a deduction up to \$300. That counts for this year. I would encourage

Americans to take advantage of that. Nonprofits around the country desperately need assistance right now.

What we have written into a proposal is to double that for next year for individuals, \$600, or for a couple filing jointly, \$1,200. You could write off your taxes completely, even if you don't itemize, if you would donate that amount to a not-for-profit.

What would cause that? Philosophically, for me, it is a couple of things. I believe in the power and strength and efficiencies of not-for-profits. In small towns around my State and around the country, there are local not-for-profits and churches and faith-based institutions, and they are doing the work to help the hurting and hungry and homeless. We should support them. They are in real need right now of our support.

There are groups all around our Nation that need people to step up and walk alongside them as they walk alongside the neediest in our communities. The best way we can do that is to incentivize that with taxes. We can either say we could have a larger tax piece here or encourage people to actually give locally. I think that is an efficient way to help people.

We need to step up, as my friend who had emailed me yesterday reminded me. If we can't get the paycheck protection extension done—and I hope we can—we need to make sure the unemployment extension is done because we are going to have more people on unemployment. We should really do both.

We can extend paycheck protections to protect those individuals in those businesses and secure them, but we also need to secure our unemployment assistance program. We have many folks with diabetes and other healthcare needs who can't return to work right now. They are not in a position where they can telework, and they need the opportunity to be sustained. Literally, their benefits are running out in days.

This is a moment we should extend that out for multiple more months to allow them the gap they need to get through the pandemic to be able to get a vaccine—which is coming soon—and then to get back to work as they have been dying to do.

We need to get liability protections. A lot of people have a lot of uncertainty, and they are worried about lawsuits coming down on them. They don't know how to manage around them.

I have letters from small businesses, large businesses, and university presidents in my State who are all saying the same thing: Help us just know what the rules of the game are going to be because there is litigation coming at us, and we don't know how to evaluate this because this has never been done before. Help us just know the rules of the road on liability.

That is not an unreasonable request for every university, large and small businesses across our Nation. Schools are going to need some additional help. That is based on just that child, no

matter where they attend—public, private, faith-based, charter, whatever it may be—it is a child whose parent is a taxpayer. Education is important, and they should all be treated the same.

Childcare issues are at the top of the list as well. Childcare facilities are out there in desperate need right now and are open and functioning. They can't have the worker or job ratio they used to have, but the costs are still the same. We need to get additional flexibility to our States. In my State—many entities within my State still have additional dollars left over from the CARES Act. So \$1.5 billion came to the State of Oklahoma through the CARES Act. That is an enormous amount of money. They are still working through to be able to handle it efficiently, how they are going to manage that. Thankfully, most towns in my State have had sales tax revenue that has gone up this year. That is not true for all of it, but for many of them, it has been. Their expenses have also gone up.

So the challenge at this point would be, how can we get the States maximum flexibility with the dollars they have to make sure they don't have to squander those funds quickly just to be able to get it done because the deadline to use them is December 31? More flexibility would be a good gift both to do wise spending and to be able to give them greater flexibility in the days ahead. That would be for States, counties, cities, and Tribes.

We should allow for the reprogramming of funds. Interestingly enough, the Paycheck Protection Program had about \$130 billion left over in it when it expired. We all gave it a lot of money not knowing how much would be needed for small businesses, but the vast majority of small businesses that could take it were able to take it. There are many, as I mentioned before, that are wanting to do a second round with it. The best way to do that is to reprogram the unused funds that are there. That would be more efficient. The Federal Reserve has unused funds in the hundreds of billions of dollars. We should cancel out those programs and reuse those funds. That is a wise use of funds to make sure we are not squandering American tax dollars.

Every single dollar that is spent on COVID-19 right now is debt money. So we should pay attention to all of those issues of debt money, knowing that we need to be careful with other people's money.

There are things that we need to do in the next 10 days here as well as to have conversations in private and in public, like this, to say: Let's get it done. Let's finish the tasks that we need to get done.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Madam President, I would like to take one moment of personal privilege.

About an hour ago, while sitting in this chair behind me, I had the opportunity to listen to a friend speak on the Senate floor for the last time, my friend CORY GARDNER.

CORY GARDNER and I came to the House of Representatives together in 2011. We became fast friends for his winning smile and his tenacious work ethic. He is a solid guy for whom I have great respect. We came to the Senate together at the same time as well. We served 4 years in the House together and now have served 6 years in the Senate together. He just lost his election in November, and he will be heading back to Colorado. I will miss my friend.

CORY and I had a lot of great conversations about a lot of legislation. We had a lot of conversations about our families. During the times that we would occasionally sit side by side in Bible studies here, we had lots of time to talk. I will not forget one key moment, though. It was our first day in the U.S. Senate, in this Chamber, when one of the staff approached us and said: The two of you have the same number of years in the House of Representatives, and you are both coming in from the same class to the Senate, which means you are tied for seniority in the Senate, and your seniority has to be resolved by a coin toss.

So CORY and I stood there, side by side, while we flipped a coin. I won, and I rubbed it in to him for 6 years that I had seniority over him in the U.S. Senate.

As I sat and listened to him speak for the last time today and talk about patriotism and his incredible love for his State and his country, all I could think of was, this is the guy I have seniority over, my friend, whom I will miss here.

CORY, thank you for being a great servant of the people of Colorado and a fantastic workaholic, happy warrior Senator.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### NOMINATION OF NATHAN A. SIMINGTON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, in just a few moments, we will vote on the nomination of Nathan Simington to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. We will do so in the middle of a pandemic when this agency is of more importance than ever to students, businesses, and families who are vitally dependent on broadband, on the consumer protection that this agency provides, and to net neutrality, which is a vital issue for them and for our country.

“Nathan Simington” is not exactly a household word, but his name and his presence on the FCC will have important meaning to households around the Nation; nor is the “FCC” a household word, but it, too, affects literally hundreds of millions of households. The FCC will have an increasingly important role in this Nation as we conquer the pandemic and deal with the economic crisis that faces this Nation.

There are 15 to 16 million students who are locked out of the internet because of the unavailability of broadband connectivity or devices that make the internet real in their lives.

The FCC is the key to their participating in schools, and it is the key to businesses being able to communicate with customers. The FCC is at the crossroads of making rights real. Nathan Simington is dangerous to those rights and to the FCC at this moment in history.

Why is he the nominee? The answer is that the current FCC Commissioner, Michael O'Rielly, was originally nominated for another term, and the Commerce Committee even held a vote for him in July. Yet, after Twitter and Facebook had the temerity to label Donald Trump's misinformation about voting and COVID-19, the President issued an Executive order that had the simple purpose of retaliating against these social media platforms. The President, in effect, demanded that the FCC revise section 230 of the Communications Decency Act in order to punish those companies for the mild inconvenience of a fact check. They didn't take down his posts; they said they needed to fact check them.

Commissioner O'Rielly recognized the dangers and the potential illegality of the President's Executive order. Again, he had the temerity to speak up and tell the American public on C-SPAN that he had “deep reservations” if they, meaning Congress, “provided any additional authority for the FCC in this matter.” In a later speech, he appeared to challenge the order on First Amendment grounds, which it well-deserved, in fact, because it potentially violated the First Amendment.

Despite years of a pristine record of Republican positions, this objection now was disqualifying to Commissioner O'Rielly in the view of the White House. The President pulled his nomination and substituted Mr. Simington, who was well qualified, for he had auditioned for the role of doing the President's bidding. We know Mr. Simington tried to pressure the FCC to cave in to the White House and to rightwing media outlets on this very issue, section 230. It is an unprecedented assault on the integrity and independence of the FCC, and he was clearly the White House's wingman on this issue.

Very simply, Nathan Simington is the wrong person and is clearly the wrong person at the wrong time for the FCC. He is unprepared and unqualified. Last month, before the Senate Commerce Committee, he was asked about his plan for the FCC. He couldn't provide one single measure for which he would advocate. He couldn't answer even basic questions from Democrats and Republicans. His answers were inadequate, incomplete, and evasive. I asked him again, in the questions for the record, to say three steps that he would take to provide and prepare for those millions of students who are out of the classroom and lack connectivity to the internet, which now is like lacking connection to the classroom. A student without that connectivity is, in effect, barred from the classroom. He

couldn't provide one meaningful response or step, even in writing, and that is plainly alarming. It should be disqualifying.

This nomination, though, is dangerous on more than any single issue because it threatens the independence and political integrity of the FCC. The political independence and integrity of the FCC depend on its balance. Normally, nominations are paired politically to reflect the bipartisan balance of the agency. What we will have at the FCC now is potential gridlock.

One month ago, voters overwhelmingly elected a new President, and he has promised to close the homework gap, the digital divide, to reinstate net neutrality, and to renew our commitment to consumer protection. This nomination threatens all of those goals for a new administration. In fact, the Senate has traditionally moved these nominations in bipartisan pairs, which is lacking here. In fact, it is contradicted by this nomination.

I think the purpose of confirming this nominee, very simply, is to deadlock the Commission and undermine the President-elect's ability to achieve the mandate the American people have given him and his administration in going forward. That may be what the giant telecommunications industry wants. It may be what the media companies hope to achieve—an FCC that is absent or neutralized, an FCC that is gridlocked and dysfunctional. I hope it is not the result of this nomination if he is confirmed, but my fear is that it will be, and if it is, this body bears a responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this nominee for the sake of those 16 million students who are now lacking in having a connection to the internet. That connectivity is essential to their lives and their educational progress. I urge this body to vote against him because he is dangerous to an agency that is supposed to be independent and above politics.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Schwartz vote begin now, some 2 minutes early.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia,

to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

VOTE ON SCHWARTZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Schwartz nomination?

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Sasse
Burr	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Murkowski	
Enzi	Paul	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Harris	Perdue
Loeffler	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

VOTE ON SIMINGTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Simington nomination?

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Sasse
Burr	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Murkowski	
Enzi	Paul	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	Perdue	Whitehouse
Loeffler	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask to be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## UAE ARMS SALES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we have a vote coming up—it could be the end of this week—that has to do with the arms sales to the United Arab Emirates. I strongly support this; however, some of my colleagues do not support it, and there is now a joint resolution of disapproval. I would hope that we would really stop and think about that because this is a very significant thing that we are talking about.

The agreement between Israel and UAE is one of the Abraham Accords. It is a very significant one. It is one that President Trump was able to get together with the two countries, Israel and UAE, and it is really a great thing. It is a major breakthrough in the Middle East.

He has done a lot of great things, the President has. I know he is controversial, but in terms of his energy policy, the military, and the economy he has been right on target.

So anyway, Arab-Israeli peace is not unprecedented, but the agreement between Israel and the UAE has moved further and faster than any other agreements that preceded it in the past.

It seems that the UAE and Israel are finding new areas of cooperation almost every day. They are now working together on security, pandemic response, education, and even media. This partnership is deep and reflects the growing acceptance of our friend Israel in the region.

Most importantly, it did not require Israel to do anything. They didn't have to give up anything. So this is a major, major achievement. Now is the time to take advantage of the gains that we have.

President Trump has treated Israel like a friend, and other countries have rushed in to that friendship. We have several other countries in Africa and in the Middle East who are joined in with Israel that have never been there before.

The sale ensures that Israel's qualitative military edge is not affected. We know this because the Israelis themselves have said this. Moreover, this sale deepens the UAE's partnership with the United States and prevents it from turning toward China and Russia.

Now, this is the problem that we have. If we don't do this, if we don't cooperate with these countries in the Middle East, then you are going to have China and Russia out there taking advantage of it.

The UAE is worthy of this sale because it is strongly aligned with the United States in the Middle East. It is a vital counterterrorism partner. The UAE has fought alongside our troops in Afghanistan and against ISIS. They have been our friend for a long time.

It is also vital to the U.S. efforts against Iran—both Iran's ambition of regional dominance and its support for terrorist proxies.

Voting down this sale would signal to our partners that even when they do

everything that we ask—fight alongside our soldiers, pursue shared interests in the region, and make meaningful peace with Israel—the United States won't have their backs. This is not the reputation that we want to gain.

The truth is, they are reliable, and we appreciate that. We are reliable, and the United States has long stood with its partner Israel against its adversary, the Iranian regime.

This sale to the UAE is consistent with that approach. Nobody here would support it if Israel were not on board, but they are on board. What is more, they will bolster our longstanding efforts to counter Iran's nefarious regional activities.

The UAE is a strong partner that already has cutting-edge technology from our F-16 activity. They have been using that fighter aircraft for a long period of time, and this sale of the F-35 fighter jet is a continuation of that partnership.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the sale and to oppose the joint resolution of disapproval. A vote against the resolution is a vote for peace in the Middle East. A vote for this resolution is a vote to give Iran, China, and Russia more power and influence in that region, and it would make our world less safe. It would send a message, also, around the world that we don't support our friends. It is a very significant vote to take place for the successes we have had in the Middle East, and I encourage people to oppose the resolution of disapproval.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to echo what the chairman of the Armed Services Committee said with regard to this upcoming vote. It is, actually, a very important vote, and I think that when you look at the leadership of the UAE and what they have done, we are seeing major peace agreements between our traditional Gulf Arab allies and Israel. This is really significant. This is a whole different approach to addressing some of the long-term challenges with regard to the Middle East, and it is starting to work.

I think it is imperative that this body, particularly at this time, send a message of support to countries and leaders—the UAE, in particular, given this upcoming vote—that have taken risks. Leadership sometimes requires you to take risks, and we know that the history in the Middle East is sometimes—when you have countries and leaders who take risks with regard to peace with Israel, those leaders can actually have dire consequences. Look what happened in Egypt, after that peace agreement, with their leaders.

I think it is very important that we, as a body, in a bipartisan, strong way come down in support not just of the progress that has been made in the re-

gion but also the broader strategic realignment that is happening.

Why is that happening? Because we all recognize—the United States, Israel, our traditional Gulf Arab allies, our traditional Arab allies in the region—that the biggest challenge, the biggest threat in the region is the terrorist regime in Iran, which is the biggest challenge and biggest threat to peace and security in the region.

There has been enormous progress. The President and his team deserve a lot of the credit. Rebuilding our military deserves a lot of credit, which we have all done here. But we need to send a signal that policies that have been tried before, particularly policies that appease the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, don't work. The policies of strength, the policies of standing together—Israel, United States, our traditional Arab allies—that is what is working, and that is what is bringing peace.

This vote that is going to happen soon is a lot more than just a vote on weapon sales. It is a vote on this body helping to cement the reorientation in the region toward peace and toward recognizing what the challenge is.

The challenge that we all face is the biggest terrorist regime in the world, which threatens the United States, threatens Israel, threatens the UAE, and threatens Saudi Arabia. That is why we need a strong vote in the way the chairman of the Armed Services Committee just talked about. I am fully supportive of where he is, and I am hopeful that this body will vote for continued peace and strength, particularly as it relates to the terrorist regime in Iran, and not send the wrong signal to our friends and allies, particularly when historic progress—yes, it has been historic progress—is being made in the region.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

## REMEMBERING CASSIE JOHNSON

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of West Virginia's finest.

Patrolwoman Cassie Johnson of the Charleston Police Department represented the very best of who we are as a statewide community. She was taken from us far too soon, on December 3, 2020, at the age of 28.

Cassie was the daughter of an ironworker. She shared her mother's steely resolve and iron constitution.

Being a police officer in the city she loved and grew up in was a dream come true for Cassie. She was sworn in by Mayor Amy Goodwin in January 2019 and had previously worked as a city humane officer.

Cassie was born and raised in our State's capital. She could have gone anywhere, and she chose to stay and protect and serve the community that made her who she was.

She was truly a beautiful person in every way.

Growing up, Cassie was an athlete and particularly loved softball. She would one day find that the Little League field she played on as a child was on her beat. So she watched over it with great care so the current generation of children could play in safety.

One of the first things she did when she was assigned to the field was to clean up the drug paraphernalia to make the field a safe place for kids. Because of her efforts, children and their families have been able to enjoy the field as a clean, safe, fun place to play.

Cassie was an animal lover and dedicated her life to rescuing pets who had been cast aside, even taking an animal behavior class in Tennessee so she could better understand the language of dogs.

Cassie's beloved dog Emma was a chocolate lab who passed away a few months ago. Cassie grieved deeply for Emma because she had a special connection with her.

Years ago, when Cassie was in high school, Emma had nine chocolate lab pups in Cassie's bedroom. Her mom tells the story of taking the runt of the litter with her to pick up Cassie at school. When they got home, there were chocolate lab pups running everywhere. This was just one of the many adventures Cassie had with Emma. No doubt, they are reunited again.

Cassie was a music lover, most likely because her mother sang her to sleep as a child. She was surrounded by instruments and music throughout her life. She loved to make the world beautiful, and that is also why she enjoyed decorating for the holidays.

The weekend before she passed, she decorated her mother's house for Christmas, alongside her dear sister Chelsea. One of the last actions she took the day of her passing was to wipe the snow from those holiday decorations because she always looked out for her mother any way that she could.

Most importantly, Cassie was a genuinely good person, and she lived her whole life with West Virginia values. She worked hard and bought her own home at the age of 25. She was beloved in the community and in her profession, as evidenced in the tremendous outpouring of grief. The support and fellowship that followed her tragic passing has been unbelievable.

Her mother describes her as respectful and well-mannered throughout her whole life.

Cassie will be deeply missed, not only because of who she was but because we are all so keenly aware of and sorrowful for what might have been.

No one can take away what Cassie represented to the Charleston community and the entire Mountain State. Every one of our female leaders in West Virginia is an epitome of strength and advancement in their fields and serve as inspiring role models for the next generation. That is due in great part to the women who broke ground in generations past. Because of their accomplishments, young women like Cassie

have and will blaze their own trails and continue to make our State and entire Nation proud.

I have such tremendous respect for our police officers and all of our first responders. Cassie's compassion, courage, and selflessness will live on through the memories of those who knew and loved her, as well as through the countless lives she touched and inspired every day.

She leaves us having made a profound impact in the community that she loved, as well as in the lives of those around her.

I had the tremendous and humbling honor of visiting with Cassie's family at her bedside in her final hours. It is clear to me that Cassie came from strong roots and that her life was filled with joy and love. She was a beloved daughter and sister and a loyal friend, who adored her three dogs and all animals.

Cassie was an organ donor. Her final act of selflessness has given someone else a chance.

The Charleston Police Department has retired Cassie's unit number, 146.

I know I join the entire Mountain State in mourning our shared loss of this bright, generous, and vibrant spirit.

Gayle and I extend our deepest condolences to Cassie's mother Sheryl, sister Chelsea, brother Terry, and all of her family and friends, her colleagues with the Charleston Police Department, as well as the city of Charleston, and will forever keep them in our prayers.

May God watch over Cassie.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING PAUL SARBANES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when you are new to the U.S. Senate, it is not unusual for friends and people back home, after you have been there a while, to say: So who are the good guys and who are the bad guys in the Senate? Who are the ones you really like and what can you tell us about the rest of them?

It is a common question that is asked, and I do remember, as a new Senator here, reflecting on that question and saying: You know, if I had an important decision to make in the Senate, whatever the issue might be, there are two Senators whom I always want to sit down and get their advice. One was Carl Levin of Michigan—one of the most thoughtful, smart guys I had a chance to serve with, and the other was Paul Sarbanes. He just always struck me as a man of substance, who took

questions seriously. He was respected in the U.S. Senate for his service, of course, to Maryland, and he was just a good person. He brought real integrity to the U.S. Senate.

So when I learned that he passed away just a few days ago, I wanted to put a few things in the RECORD.

He was a man of towering intellect and integrity, but he was modest. He didn't care about headlines. He did so much good work behind the scenes. He was given some of the toughest assignments.

Think about the responsibility of dealing with the great recession and then working with Republican Congressman Oxley to put together a really significant reform of Wall Street and the financial community. We knew we could trust Paul Sarbanes to do it, and he did it in a bipartisan fashion.

He was a proud son of immigrants. He never forgot it. His parents emigrated from the same town in Greece but only met in America.

The Sarbanes owned a famous restaurant in Salisbury, MD, and gave it the quintessentially American name—the Mayflower Restaurant. Paul worked in the restaurant as a boy, and he and his family lived above the restaurant.

He graduated from public high school, won a scholarship to Princeton University, studied as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and in 1960 earned a law degree from Harvard. Not bad for an immigrant's son.

From Harvard, Paul went to the White House, where he was one of the best and brightest who answered President John Kennedy's call to public service. There, he worked as an administrative assistant to Walter Heller, who was Chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers.

Paul Sarbanes' parents taught him that serving one's nation in public service was a noble calling.

One of the many Greek words Paul Sarbanes learned from his parents was the word "idiotes." It is the Greek root word for the English word "idiot," but it has a different meaning in Greek. It means someone who takes no part in the affairs of his community. In the Sarbanes family, that was almost a curse.

Paul and his parents believed that service to others and to their adopted homeland was a noble calling. So Paul first ran for elective office. In 1966, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

In 1970, the people of Maryland elected him to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a young Congressman when he wrote one of the successful Articles of Impeachment against then-President Nixon for lying about his Watergate burglary.

In 1976, he won his first election to the U.S. Senate. He would go on to serve 30 years in the Chamber. He was a voice of reason on both the Senate Iran-Contra and Whitewater committees.

When corporate swindling at Enron and other large corporations cheated millions of Americans out of their life savings, it was Paul Sarbanes' leadership that enabled the Senate to pass the most far-reaching corporate accountability reform since the Securities and Exchange Commission was created 70 years before.

That Sarbanes-Oxley reform law passed in 2002. It was designed to prevent the kind of corporate abuses that had so damaged America's economy and shaken the faith of the American people in the economic markets.

In 2002, things came full circle for me. There was created an award in the name of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois—a man whom I first met as a college intern who inspired me to get started in this business. Paul Sarbanes won in 2002 and became the first recipient of the Senator Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award that is presented by the University of Illinois to honor men and women in public service who exhibit the finest qualities of leadership. It was a perfect match, and, for me, it came full circle.

What a coincidence it is that the people who have been my heroes in public life so far, so many are named Paul: Paul Douglas, who had started me as an intern, who introduced me to Paul Simon, who preceded me in the U.S. Senate, where I served with Paul Sarbanes.

They basically say in my office that I have been raised according to the Gospel of "Saints" Paul.

I want to quote briefly from Senator Sarbanes' final speech in the Senate before he retired in 2006. It speaks powerfully to the kind of leaders America is looking for today.

Here is what Paul Sarbanes said:

Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based upon the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by a vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people.

I know I join all my colleagues in thanking Paul for doing his part so nobly and so well to help us move toward a more perfect Union.

And let me say a word about his wife Christine. She was his real partner in life. I can recall when he retired, and I said: Paul, I am sorry to see you go. And he said: Let me ask you a question. When are you supposed to leave around here? It is a question many of us have asked ourselves over and over.

As far as he was concerned, I said: What do you want to do the most? He said: Travel with Christine.

They were able to do that for a limited period of time because Christine died of cancer in 2009. She was a wonderful person—intelligent, just like Paul—and the two of them were pure happiness together.

Loretta and I wish to express our condolences to the Sarbanes family, es-

pecially to their children—Michael, Janet, and a man I have come to know and respect, his son, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, as well as their grandchildren, his friends and former staff members, and the countless people whose lives are better because of Paul Sarbanes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ARMS SALE RESOLUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last 4 years, we have seen a series of encouraging developments in the Middle East—a place where there isn't a long trend line of positive developments.

We have destroyed the ISIS caliphate. We have brought down dangerous terrorist leaders like al-Baghdadi and, of course, the head of the IRGC, Soleimani, who was personally responsible for American blood on his hands, particularly providing explosives that penetrated our armor in Iraq.

Through congressional action and the work of the Trump administration, we strengthened bilateral ties with our closest friends and allies, including Israel and Jordan. This summer, the administration helped forge historic peace deals between Israel and Arab nations in the region. The United Arab Emirates became the third Arab country and first Gulf State to recognize and normalize relations with Israel by the signing of the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement. It was only a matter of days until Bahrain followed suit and announced its agreement with Israel to open formal diplomatic negotiations.

These historic breakthroughs represent serious progress in our efforts to fight terrorism and establish lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. While more work obviously remains, it is great to see the mounting pressure against Iran—the region's greatest antagonist and largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Last month, the Trump administration announced that it intended to sell arms to our friends in the United Arab Emirates—a move that I support. This will help the UAE work with the United States and our friends to deter and defend these threats from Iran and other hostilities in the region. What it seems to me is that it focused everybody's attention on the recognition that Iran represents the single biggest destabilizing and dangerous influence in the Middle East today, and it is the recognition that they are the common adversary of not only the Arab nations in the region but also the United States and our ally Israel that

has, I think, brought them to the negotiating table.

As Iran grows increasingly belligerent toward the United States and our allies, these military assets that we will sell to our friends in the UAE will serve as a stabilizing force, a force multiplier, and a source of protection for the United States and our security interests. We have learned a hard lesson that American boots on the ground is something we want to do as a last resort. But if we can work by, with, and through our friends and allies to provide that security and stability against a common enemy, we should do it.

The arms sale will allow greater military cooperation between the United States, the UAE, and Israel and strengthen a growing coalition of aligned forces in the region. It will also make sure the United States remains the partner of choice.

It is not as if the United States is the only one that has a say. Obviously, if we don't provide them the military equipment they need, they will go looking for other sellers, and that would certainly be less desirable for us and for them because we are their partner of choice in the region. Russia and particularly China have sought to increase their malign influence in the Middle East, and they would be more than happy to fill the void left by any refusal on the part of the United States to make this sale. So blocking this sale would only strengthen the position of China and Russia, while significantly weakening our own.

As we continue to make progress in the decades-long quest for peace and stability in the Middle East, I support the administration's strategic decision to sell arms to the UAE. This would provide the UAE with critical national security assets, such as access to the F-35 fifth-generation fighter, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other advanced munitions to act as a deterrent, and if worse comes to worse, it actually gives them a comparative advantage with other countries in the region.

The Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, perhaps summed it up best when he said:

What keeps me up at night is actually not the proposed F-35 sale to the Emirates. What keeps me up at night is the idea that somebody would return to the nuclear deal with Iran.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, this week, I hope we are able to make more progress on the coronavirus relief negotiations so we can pass another bill before recessing for the holidays. There are a lot of people in this country, all throughout the country, who are hurting, who are anxious, and who are worried about their ability to pay the rent and to meet their other obligations in the face of this pandemic, and I think it would be a dereliction of duty on our part to leave here without addressing those real needs.

Earlier this year, we worked in a quick, bipartisan fashion to pass relief bills totaling more than \$3 trillion. Thinking back on it, it was pretty remarkable to do as much as we did as fast as we did, but we knew we were up against a common enemy in this virus, and we knew we had to respond quickly, and we did. The funding we provided has gone a long way to support our healthcare and economic response, but as our war against COVID-19 continues to rage on, additional support is needed, and it is needed now.

The good news is, as earlier, there are a number of areas that we agree on what the support should look like, including funding for schools, assistance for the hardest hit workers and small businesses, and another investment in the distribution of the vaccine that can't come soon enough, but we remain hung up on a couple of important points, including liability protection for businesses, schools, nonprofits, and others who in good faith did their best to follow guidance from the CDC and other public health authorities but now face the prospect of litigation.

It is pretty hard to follow the guidance as knowledge of this virus has evolved. I remember before April, the head of the CDC, including Dr. Fauci and others, said that masks were useless. Then they changed their guidance in April. That is fine. I respect that based on what we have learned about the virus. But we simply can't expose people who have tried their best to muddle along in the face of this pandemic, following the guidance from public health officials, and say: You didn't know then what we know now, so you must have been negligent, and you need to pay compensation in the form of litigation.

Well, I don't think that is fair to those entities, those individuals, those businesses, those schools, those churches, mosques, and synagogues. But this is something that is on the minds of a lot of people, from healthcare workers, to teachers, to nonprofits, to small business owners. Those who continue to provide essential services and goods didn't have any choice but to show up and go to work. Now they are worried that by opening their doors to people who really needed their help at the time, they have also now opened themselves up to an endless parade of lawsuits by the trial bar.

We all know that lawyers can be very creative and opportunistic. That is part of what lawyering involves. But the litigation we expect against doctors, nurses, colleges, churches, small businesses—anyone and everyone could be blamed for another person's harm. If those lawsuits are feasible, they will follow. And the statute of limitations is a couple years, so even though we are not necessarily seeing it now, we do know that class action litigation could be filed in any favorable jurisdiction

anywhere in the country and basically bankrupt many businesses and certainly discourage businesses from safely reopening and following those guidelines.

I think there is another reason to reward people who have tried their best to follow those guidelines—because it ensures more compliance. To now play a game of “gotcha” with them and say: It wasn't good enough, so now you are going to have to pay or maybe even just defend a lawsuit that you ultimately will win—we all know that will cost a lot of money and will take a lot of time, and I would prefer to see them rebuild their businesses and restore the jobs that were lost as a result of the pandemic.

So because of my concern about the need for some liability shield, we introduced a bill called the SAFE TO WORK Act that provides commonsense protections for those who acted in good faith to keep their customers and their employees safe, while still preserving the right to sue for those who were victims of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

This is not a blanket liability shield that won't permit the really truly bad actors from facing due consequences. It won't ban coronavirus lawsuits, and it won't give anyone a get-out-of-jail-free card. So we need to get that straight up front. In cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, where the applicable public health guidelines were not followed, the person affected has every right to sue and be made whole in a court of law. No one is asking to change that. What we do need, though, is to put safeguards in place to ensure that those who operated in good faith and were following all the relevant guidelines, even as they evolved over time, cannot be sued out of existence.

First and foremost are protections for our incredible healthcare heroes who made tremendous physical and mental sacrifices over the last several months. This legislation sets a willful misconduct or gross negligence standard for coronavirus-related medical liability suits to ensure that only legitimate cases are brought against our healthcare workers who, again, didn't have any choice but to show up for work.

In addition to protecting our healthcare heroes, we need to ensure that a fear of lawsuits doesn't prevent schools, nonprofits, churches, small businesses, and a range of other organizations and institutions that are vital to our communities and our economy from opening their doors. This spells out in black and white that these entities will be protected from COVID-19 exposure claims as long as they comply with mandatory public health guidelines.

It is true that a number of States have already provided similar protections, including the minority leader's

home State of New York, and it is time that we extend these liability limitations to the rest of the country, particularly States like mine where the legislature does not meet on a continual basis. They haven't even been in session during 2020. They will go into session in January, and I presume they will try to fill in any holes they feel like we left when it comes to liability protection. But without a uniform Federal standard, we are going to end up in a dangerous venue shopping situation, and it is only to be expected that the lawyers will find the place most favorable for their lawsuits. They will seek to pursue those claims using class action procedures, and we will be right back at the worst nightmare that I think many folks would have contemplated unless we provide for this Federal liability shield.

The goal is not to protect bad actors. What we do need to clearly spell out is for the schools, colleges, nonprofits, churches, and businesses that are asking us to provide them some guidance and some security.

Our Democratic colleagues have not expressed a lot of enthusiasm for this legislation, and my Republican colleagues and I have tried to work with them to reach a result that both sides can support. But the nature of compromise, as we all know, is give-and-take, but so far it has been pretty much one-sided. We have offered changes to appease our Democratic colleagues' concerns while still preserving the basic goal of the legislation, but the truth is, they really haven't moved much in any meaningful way.

I think the truth is that our country's long-term economic recovery from this virus depends on these liability protections in large part. Businesses doing the best they can during a worldwide emergency should not face bankruptcy because of concerns about the trial bar. I mean, who are we here working for—the American people or for lawyers who—and this isn't necessarily designed to be a criticism—who are looking out for their own economic interests first and foremost? Our view must be much broader than that, and the greatest good for the greatest number I think should be our guiding principle.

Our essential workers and institutions need to know that if they have been operating in good faith and obeying the guidelines that have been promulgated by the public health authorities, they won't be subjected to litigation, and only Congress can provide that certainty.

Now, this is not a permanent Federal takeover of State tort law by any means. It really is comparable to what we did after Y2K—or in the run up to Y2K—and also with other national

emergencies like 9/11. We have even given some protection to pharmaceutical companies, which we have asked to take risks to come up with world-class vaccines and therapies, to encourage them and to incentivize them to do that because we know it is in the public interest.

But across the country, we are already seeing these lawsuits rolling in, and without action from Congress, we are going to emerge from this pandemic only to find ourselves in not another wave of the virus but in a second wave of litigation that will be devastating for many.

In order for our country and our economy to recover, these workers and these institutions need to know that they can follow the guidelines and then safely reopen their doors and do their jobs with confidence. They need to know that if they follow these guidelines and act in good faith, they won't be subjected to perhaps business-ending litigation that could tie them up in court and drain their remaining resources dry.

As I have said, the way we reach agreements around here is through bipartisan negotiations. It took a little compromise, and neither side achieved 100 percent of what they wanted, but we eventually have gotten there. We have done that four times in the coronavirus response, and I hope we can do it again here.

I hope our Democratic colleagues will approach these negotiations with the gravity they deserve. We can't leave people waiting and wondering what their future looks like any longer if there is something we can do to provide them some safety and security and some confidence about what the future may look like.

I hope we will all work together to deliver these critical liability protections for folks across the country in all 50 States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR PAUL SPYROS SARBANES

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time, along with my colleague from Maryland, Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN—and I am also pleased that we are joined by Senator STABENOW and Senator REED. We take this time, on a very sad note, to announce the death of Paul Spyros Sarbanes, our former colleague in the U.S. Senate, who passed away on December 6, 2020, at the age of 87.

I first got to know Senator Sarbanes when he first ran for public office in 1966. We both were elected to the Maryland General Assembly that year, and we became good friends. Delegate Sarbanes at that point made a name for himself on the House Judiciary Committee in the Maryland General Assembly and was a rising star from his first day in the Maryland General Assembly.

He shortly thereafter ran for the House of Representatives. He served three terms in the House of Representatives with a very distinguished career. During that time, it was the time of the Watergate issues, and Congressman SARBANES was on the Judiciary Committee and was given the responsibility of the first Article of Impeachment against President Nixon. That article dealt with obstruction of justice. It was the key engagement against President Nixon on impeachment, and it is very telling that that responsibility was given to a young Member of the House of Representatives, Congressman Paul Sarbanes. It was because of his work ethic, his commitment to scholarship, and his understanding of issues that he was entrusted with that responsibility.

He then served five terms in the U.S. Senate, the longest term for any Senator in Maryland. Paul Sarbanes was known as a Senator's Senator for his integrity, for his public commitment to public service, and his strong commitment to principles. He was a Rhodes scholar who chose to serve the public rather than using his skills in the private sector for his own personal gain. His entire life was devoted to public service. What a legacy he has left us by his incredible public service.

In 2002, the Enron scandal hit America, and Chairman Sarbanes, the chairman of the Banking Committee here, teamed up with Chairman Oxley in the House to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. George W. Bush—President Bush—said it was “the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.” The leadership of Senator Sarbanes was deeply needed at that time, and he delivered on behalf of the American people.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I know firsthand what Senator Sarbanes did in helping to create the Federal partnership in the Chesapeake Bay Program. It was during the time that he was the junior Senator from Maryland, along with Senator Mathias, that the two of them partnered in order to develop the Federal program for the Chesapeake Bay, and then Senator Sarbanes carried the burden of that partnership. For many years, it was through his efforts in the U.S. Senate that we were able to continue and expand the Federal partnership for the bay.

Now, those of us who live in the bay region—and I know that Senator STABENOW has heard me talk about this many times when we talk about the great water bodies. We know that the Chesapeake is the largest estuary in our hemisphere. It is the most diverse estuary, and it is a challenge because of the way that the water flows and it cleanses itself. So we started this Federal partnership—Senator Sarbanes did—and it has provided incredible dividends for the people of Maryland and the people of our Nation—indeed, the global community.

He was an expert on foreign policy. He served on the Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee. He was involved in the leadership of passing ratification of the Panama Canal Treaty, and there are so many other areas in which Senator Sarbanes excelled.

We all receive honors; I know that. I am just going to mention three because they were really reflective of what Senator Sarbanes accomplished during his career. He got the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award for his incredible standard of integrity and ethics; the Roth Award for extraordinary impact on policy, on economic business, and finance—his lasting legacy on the financial institutions here in America; and the Cox, Richardson, Coleman Award for distinguished public service. He was a Senator's Senator. He devoted his life to public service.

In a way, Paul Sarbanes represents the American success story. He was a son of Greek immigrants, grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in Salisbury, and rose to serve in the U.S. Senate.

His lifetime partner was Christine. All of us remember Paul and Christine together. What a couple they made. What a love story it was.

There are three children. JOHN, whom we all know very well because he serves in the House of Representatives, holds the seat in the Third Congressional District. It is the same seat that Barbara Mikulski held, the same seat that I held; the same seat that Paul Sarbanes held is now being held by Paul's son JOHN, and what a great job he is doing. It is interesting that he was the leading sponsor of H.R. 1 in this Congress, which was basically the good governance legislation that passed overwhelmingly in the House, and so many other things that follow in his father's tradition.

Paul's other son Michael has had a distinguished career, and Janet, his daughter, has also had a distinguished career.

Paul had seven grandchildren. Christine predeceased Paul.

I want to just talk a moment about the partnership between Senator Sarbanes and Senator Mikulski. They had different styles. I think most people would acknowledge that from the beginning, Paul was very much stately and represented the traditional, I guess, demeanor that you would expect of a U.S. Senator. And I love Barbara Mikulski, but no one would ever accuse her of having that type of demeanor. But the two of them had an incredible relationship together. They were called the “Diner Democrats” because Paul's father's family ran a diner, and Barbara Mikulski's family ran Mikulski's Bakery, as we all know. They worked together in true partnership over so many years. It was a friendship that was really one of total trust and respect.

I had a chance to communicate with Senator Mikulski, and she, because of COVID, could not join us tonight.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that her statement be printed in the RECORD of these proceedings.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MIKULSKI STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF  
SENATOR PAUL S. SARBANES

BALTIMORE.—Retired U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) today issues the following statement remembering Senator Paul Sarbanes:

"We join Maryland and all of America in mourning the loss of Senator Paul Sarbanes. We extend our condolences and sympathies to his family and loved ones during this time.

America has lost a great statesman, the state of Maryland has lost a champion, and I, along with so many others, have lost a friend.

The Maryland Delegation calls itself Team Maryland, and we became a team because of Senator Sarbanes's work in reaching hands across the aisle to Senator Mac Mathias. Senator Sarbanes knew that each of us could make a difference but working together was how we would make change. His legacy of bringing Marylanders together to make change lives on in the Delegation today.

Senator Sarbanes never forgot his family's strong immigrant roots or their belief in the American Dream. He knew the transformational power of education and championed an opportunity ladder and increased access to higher education. An unabashed believer in America's promise, he became a voice for civil rights and voting rights. And in his advocacy on housing, he worked to eliminate barriers of discrimination. He championed the stabilization of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the Chesapeake Bay for tomorrow while advocating for jobs on the Port of Baltimore today.

Senator Sarbanes believed that discussion and debate should always be based on civility, intellectual rigor, and respect for others. He was a workhorse, not a show horse, who cared more about the getting job done and getting it done right, than in taking credit.

We served together in Congress for 30 years, 20 of them together in the Senate. And just as he was Maryland's champion, he was my champion, too. As well as my ally and friend. We joked that we were "diner democrats," not "dynasty democrats." He was the son of a diner owner, and I was the daughter of a grocer. We were both raised to ask how we could help those around us every day. Senator Sarbanes took that lesson to heart; it was his commitment to helping not only the people of Maryland, but every American that drove him. And each of us is better off for having been helped by him.

He was always there when you needed him. He will be missed."

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me conclude by just quoting from Senator Sarbanes himself on the final speech that he gave when he left the Senate. He said:

Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based on the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by the vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people.

Service in this body has reinforced, many times over, my understanding and commitment to the institutions upon which our system of Democratic governance critically depends.

So long as [that] vision of America's promise continues to shine brightly in this body,

I have every confidence that our Nation will prevail in the face of great challenges and that its future will be assured.

It is our responsibility to heed those words of Senator Sarbanes and strive to carry out his legacy.

Before I yield to Senator VAN HOLLEN, the two of us, on behalf of all of the Members of the U.S. Senate, have filed a resolution to honor Paul Sarbanes. This has been cleared.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 797, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 797) honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 797) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions".)

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I now yield the floor in anticipation that my colleague from Maryland—the two of us have joined together to pay tribute to Senator Sarbanes—be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland, Senator BEN CARDIN, for his remembrance of Paul Sarbanes. I am honored to join him and others in offering a resolution in memory of Senator Paul Sarbanes.

I should say that Senator Sarbanes was very pleased that BEN CARDIN succeeded him in his seat here in the U.S. Senate. So I am honored to join with him, Senator STABENOW, Senator REED, Senator DURBIN, and others in remembering somebody who was a friend, who was a mentor, and who was the excellent role model for every elected official—Senator Paul Sarbanes.

He was a thoughtful and brilliant Senator, a kind man, and a dedicated public servant. As we have heard, he was born on Maryland's Eastern Shore to parents who emigrated from Greece. He graduated from the local public high school, Wicomico High School, and was recruited to attend Princeton on a full scholarship. He excelled in his studies as he would in his career, becoming a Rhodes scholar and graduating from Oxford before attending Harvard Law School.

He went on to a very distinguished career in public service that ended here in the U.S. Senate, but he never ever forgot his humble roots in Salisbury, where his parents owned a small restaurant they called the Mayflower.

In his farewell speech in the Senate, Senator Paul Sarbanes said:

My parents came to this country as immigrants from Greece, both my mother and [my] father, and it was from them that I first learned about the meaning of a democratic society and the potential it offers to move up the ladder of opportunity on the basis of ability, hard work, and conviction. Their memory is still a very powerful influence in my life.

As we heard from Senator CARDIN, Senator Barbara Mikulski, who served here so well, was his friend and partner, and for years she always joked that they were the "Diner Democrats," a nod to the Mayflower restaurant, owned by Paul Sarbanes's father, her roots in the Polish-American community in Baltimore, and their mutual commitment to fighting for working people, for the dignity of work, for the reality of the struggles so many Americans face, and the need to give every American a fair shot.

Paul Sarbanes carried the values he learned from his parents on Maryland's Eastern Shore, first to the Maryland House of Delegates, then to the House of Representatives, and later here to the U.S. Senate.

From the very start, he developed a reputation for thoughtfulness and honor. He could make simple and confident arguments, based on evidence, to win others to his cause—Members from both parties.

He was in his first term in the House of Representatives during the Watergate hearings, and he approached the proceedings on the Judiciary Committee with his signature seriousness of purpose. He considered the evidence, he listened to President Nixon's counsel's statements, and methodically addressed and responded to their arguments. Because of his own unimpeachable conduct, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee called upon him, a new member, and asked him to introduce the first article of impeachment against President Nixon—the charge of obstruction of justice. Paul Sarbanes had the legal acumen to take on that responsibility, but he also had the integrity to be a moral voice in the Congress at that moment for the country.

Writing about his dignified work during the Watergate proceedings, journalist Elizabeth Drew commented: "Paul Sarbanes would not have looked at all bad at the Constitutional Convention; he might have [even] been one of the great ones."

After three terms in the House, Paul Sarbanes ran for the Senate. I first met Senator Sarbanes in the 1980s, when I was serving as a staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I know everybody who served with Paul Sarbanes will understand what a master class it was to watch him during a hearing. On cross-examination,

he asked thoughtful, probing questions, and before a reluctant witness realized what was happening, he had them cornered with no way out but to concede to the point that he wanted to make or look deliberately evasive. Woe be it to any witness who came before Senator Sarbanes unprepared.

He was a Senate workhorse in the truest and best sense. Former Majority Leader George Mitchell once said: "Paul was effective because he didn't seek credit, which endeared him to his colleagues."

He wasn't afraid to take his time to get to the bottom of an issue, build his case, and convince his colleagues. In the wake of the Enron scandal, he held 10 hearings to ensure that the congressional response would be thorough and effective and rallied the entire Senate to support the ensuing Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the law that is credited with restoring greater investor confidence in the market and providing transparency and oversight for corporate governance.

He loved the State of Maryland, and especially the Chesapeake Bay. As Senator CARDIN indicated, he took on the mantle of forging and strengthening the Federal partnership to clean up his beloved Chesapeake Bay.

He wanted everybody to have a fair deal and worked to improve access to affordable housing and to protect consumers from his seat on the Banking Committee. He believed in the United States as a force for good in the world and supported foreign assistance, the treaties to return control of the Panama Canal to Panama, and strongly supported legislation to impose sanctions under the then-apartheid regime of South Africa. He opposed senseless and unnecessary wars.

I came to the House of Representatives in 2003, along with my friend and colleague from Baltimore, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger. Senator Sarbanes was then the leader of our delegation. He welcomed us kindly, but as captain of Team Maryland, he characteristically was eager to allow all Members, however new they were to the delegation, to play an important role.

Not surprisingly, Senator Sarbanes was a favored son of the Greek-American community. He was a member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore and held the highest lay office in the church. We shared strong bonds in the Greek-American community because, like Paul's parents, my wife Katherine's mother's family immigrated from Greece.

As a strong believer in promoting democratic values at home and abroad, Senator Sarbanes was proud of those Greek roots and spoke often of democracy's roots with the ancient Greeks. He used to speak to students about the importance of public service, telling them that in ancient Athens, people who lived only a private life, without view of the public good, were failing to live fully.

Indeed, the power of democracy and its promise of opportunity was the driving force behind his governing philosophy—to open the door to others, to keep your promises, and to achieve based on your merit, not on your connections, money, or power.

As extraordinary a public servant as he was, Paul Sarbanes was, above all, a family man. He was devoted to his wife Christine, whom he met at Oxford. Recalling their first encounter, Paul said:

She came to a meeting of the American Association I headed. I forgot what was on the agenda. All I remember of that meeting was that was where I met Christine.

She was brilliant and kind, an educator in Latin, Greek, French, and the classics, who matched Senator Sarbanes's intelligence and shared his love of service. They used to knock on doors together during his political campaigns, and she was a sounding board throughout his career. They raised three children, including our friend, JOHN SARBANES, who now serves Maryland so well in the House of Representatives. He was enormously proud of them and his seven grandchildren.

I also extend my condolences today to Senator Sarbanes's former staff. His legacy goes well beyond the laws he wrote to the way he worked. He shared with them: Do your homework, understand the details, act with integrity, and hold firm to your values. It is an example for all of us to follow.

Senator Sarbanes was not a flashy presence. In fact, political opponents once tried to belittle him with the name "the stealth Senator." But as he joked, stealth "is one of the most important weapons in our military arsenal. . . if you let somebody else take the credit, you can get the result."

That was Paul Sarbanes—enormous accomplishments, never taking the credit. His quiet confidence left an impression on all who served with him.

We have lost a great Senator. America has lost a great Senator, and many of us have lost a very good friend. But we should be comforted in the knowledge that he achieved what we would all wish for ourselves: He served well, he made the world better for others, he treated all he knew with respect and earned their respect in return, and he leaves us with fond memories.

May God grant those who loved him the strength to bear his loss, and may his memory be eternal.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise this evening with my colleagues from Maryland and with Senator REED from Rhode Island to pay tribute to someone whom I was lucky enough to have as a mentor when I first entered the Senate. And I want to associate myself with all of the wonderful words of my friends from Maryland.

With any new job, there is a learning curve. There are certainly things that you don't know and that you don't

even know enough to know you don't know. That certainly is true in the Senate.

In 2001, I was a former Member of the House who had just been elected to the Senate. It was an exciting time—a lot of new people to meet, rules to learn, and procedures to follow. One of my new assignments was the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, where Senator Sarbanes served as the chairman.

By that time, Senator Sarbanes was already an institution. As my colleagues have mentioned, he introduced the first article of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, as a junior Congressman. And as a freshman Senator in 1978, he was a forceful advocate for treaties that gave control, among other things, of the Panama Canal to Panama. So it felt a little surreal to find myself at the table with a brilliant leader like Senator Paul Sarbanes.

But he could not have been more gracious and more generous with his time for me as a freshman Member. He was always willing to answer my questions. He was a wonderful mentor. We, of course, worked on banking issues together, including the crafting of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, where I was able, up close, to watch his legislative mastery.

We also worked on public transit provisions in our transportation bill, which was very important for us in Michigan.

We shared a passion for protecting our water. My colleagues have talked about the Chesapeake Bay. For me, it was the Great Lakes, and we often talked about the beauty of the lakes, as well as the bay.

Senator Sarbanes gave his final speech on the Senate floor on this very day, 14 years ago. He was a humble man, and his remarks were quite brief. He closed, in part, with this: "I want my colleagues to know how deeply I appreciate their friendship and [their] counsel and how highly I value the privilege of having been their colleague."

Today, I can say exactly the same words about Senator Paul Sarbanes. He was a statesman, and I was lucky enough to call him my friend. I value the privilege of having been his colleague.

I want to offer his family, including Congressman JOHN SARBANES, all of Paul's friends, and the entire State of Maryland my deepest condolences. We have lost an incredible leader and public servant.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, it is an honor to join my colleagues from Maryland, Senator CARDIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN, and my colleague from Michigan, Senator STABENOW, to take a moment to recognize and remember my esteemed former colleague and dear friend, Senator Paul Sarbanes, who passed away last Sunday.

Paul Sarbanes spent 30 years in this Chamber doing what he knew was right. In that time, he built a legacy most could not achieve in two lifetimes.

Paul's work on banking, the economy, housing, transportation, and so many other issues had a profound and significant impact on our country. But, more importantly, his work had a direct impact on so many families whose lives were made better because of his unsung efforts over three decades.

I had the distinct honor of serving with Senator Sarbanes and working directly with him on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

Senator Sarbanes was a constant and steady champion of commonsense fiscal policies to help create jobs, expand our economy, and increase consumer and investor protections. Indeed, he used his power and influence to help those with the least power and influence in our society, which is a hallmark of our finest public servants. And Paul still remains one of our finest public servants—indeed, one of the finest of the finest.

Many would agree that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 stands among his best work. Responding to a number of major corporate accounting scandals, Senator Sarbanes' legislation began the process of trying to restore investor confidence in corporate America and our securities markets. Eighteen years later, this law continues to be a critical pillar of our financial system.

During his tenure as chair of the Joint Economic Committee in the late eighties and early nineties, Paul framed many of the important economic issues and debates that the country was experiencing at the time. He held timely hearings on income inequality, trade deficit, and unemployment during a time at which the country was only beginning to come to grips with the notion that there needed to be a different direction in our economy.

Unfortunately, our Nation is now battling a pandemic that is furthering economic inequalities, and both the Senate and the country could use and greatly misses Senator Sarbanes' thoughtfulness, incisiveness, and compassion during these difficult times.

Senator Sarbanes was also one of our Nation's greatest champions for affordable housing. He fought his entire career for our Nation's working families, trying to make it possible for more families in our country to have decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Most notably, Paul was one of the original authors of the Home Investment Partnerships Program, known as the HOME Program. This program has provided critical funding to our Nation's States and localities, helping them maintain or expand their supply of affordable housing for many Americans.

Paul also fought aggressively for funding of the section 8 voucher pro-

gram and was one of the chief supporters of improvements to our Nation's public housing programs during his Senate tenure.

Senator Sarbanes also recognized the essential role that public transportation plays in bringing communities together, fostering economic development, and promoting a cleaner environment. As ranking member of the Banking Committee, he led the effort to reauthorize the Nation's transit programs and the fight to ensure that transit received its fair share of funding.

Time after time, Paul Sarbanes did the right things for the right reasons. He could not care less whether he got the credit, the press, or the fanfare. His primary motivation was simply knowing that he made a meaningful difference in the lives of his constituents and the American people, and, in this regard, there are few who are as accomplished as Paul Sarbanes.

His keen intellect, his extensive knowledge of the issues, and his concern for Americans across this great country all contributed to his impressive body of legislative accomplishments.

Now, I had the occasion to speak with JOHN SARBANES, Congressman from Maryland, who is carrying on the proud tradition of the Sarbanes family, and he said his dad was best described as a workhorse, not a show horse, and that is right. Paul Sarbanes did the work of the people. He did not try to garner the praise and the acclaim; he just wanted to make sure the work was done and done well. And he did throughout his entire career.

My best wishes go to Paul's family, including his sons Michael Sarbanes and Representative JOHN SARBANES; his daughter Janet Sarbanes; and his grandchildren. They have lost a father and a grandfather. The country has lost one of its greatest champions. And I have lost a dear and precious friend.

May he rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator VAN HOLLEN and myself, I want to thank our colleagues for their tribute to Senator Paul Sarbanes—Senator STABENOW and Senator REED. I know that Senator SCHUMER and Senator DURBIN have spoken on the floor. Many of us have and many have expressed their condolences through our office to the family. We just want to express our appreciation.

As Senator VAN HOLLEN said, I had the honor—or the challenge—to follow Senator Sarbanes in this body. I have his seat in the Senate. When I was sworn in almost 14 years ago, Senator Sarbanes escorted me to take the oath of office. As I mentioned earlier, he is an inspiration to all of us.

I want to thank our colleagues for the tribute they have paid to an outstanding Marylander, an outstanding American, and he will be missed by all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk again about the need for Congress to act to pass a COVID-19 bill that helps the people we represent. I am told this is the 20th time I have come to the floor to make this plea, meaning that I haven't been all that convincing, I guess.

But the reality is there is hope in the air. There is a bipartisan group that is working on a package. I am part of that group, as is the Presiding Officer. It is bipartisan: about five Democrats, about five Republicans.

Maybe more significantly, today the White House apparently made an offer to Speaker PELOSI to reengage in conversation to try to get to a package that meets the needs of everyone. The package that was presented was actually very similar to the package that this bipartisan group has been working on over the past few weeks. So there is hope in the air, and that is good because we need the help, and we need it now.

Let's talk for a minute about why we need this help. I would guess that pretty much everybody in this Chamber has seen firsthand the health crisis that we are facing. The number of cases is up. The number of people in intensive care is up. Hospitalizations are up. And, sadly, fatalities have increased.

Some of my colleagues in this Chamber have had to fight cases of COVID-19 themselves. Thank God they are all OK. But that is not true with everyone we represent. I would bet that everyone in this Chamber knows somebody and probably multiple people who have had a very tough time or who have even succumbed to this terrible disease.

Last week, another friend of mine died because of COVID-19. His name was Mike Crabtree. Mike was a county commissioner in Scioto County, OH—a friend, a standup guy who helped me on a lot of tough issues in Southeast Ohio. He was always there for his community and for me. Today, of course, we offer our prayers to his wife Diane, his family, and to all of his friends in Scioto County.

It is personal. In the face of these personal tragedies and the sad reality that in many States we are now experiencing this higher number of cases—in many States it is the highest we have had since the beginning of this pandemic—we do have some promising news on one front, and that is on the vaccine front.

It now seems clear that later this month, and then over the next 3 to 4 months, help is on the way in the form of very effective new vaccines being developed by Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, and other U.S. manufacturers.

The unprecedented support that Congress has provided for vaccine development, the Trump administration's innovative approach to cut bureaucratic redtape through what is called Operation Warp Speed, and the commitment and ingenuity of our researchers who have been working around the clock, our scientists, and our manufacturers have combined to put us on a path to having multiple vaccines, at unprecedented speed, with efficacy rates above 90 percent.

This is incredible. This is good news. Safe, effective vaccines are expected to be available to frontline healthcare workers, first responders, long-term care facilities, and others just in the next few weeks. This is good news.

Within the next few months, we would expect that these vaccines would be more broadly available, and hopefully by March, maybe April, pretty much everybody would be able to find a way to get that vaccine, free, for them and for their family. That has to be our goal here, as quickly as possible, to get safe, effective vaccines.

I am concerned—as some of my colleagues know, because I talk about it a lot—that the number of people who say they are willing to get the vaccine is too low. That is one reason I entered one of the trials myself. I am in the Janssen J&J trial. I either got the vaccine or I got a placebo—I don't know—but I did it to be able to go out and talk about it and tell people that these scientists, these experts, the people with the white coats, not the politicians, are the ones calling the shots here on these vaccines and they are being safe and they are being careful.

It is going through a process at the FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, that is actually more stringent than it was pre-COVID. To get this emergency use authorization, they have to go through more testing, and they have to show efficacy rates above 50 percent, which they normally wouldn't. That is good. We want it to be safe.

Even with all that hard work that is being done, all those scientists and researchers working around the clock, there are some Americans who are unwilling and concerned. Part of this is because some politicians, I think, have played politics with this, and I hate that—as if, somehow, in the Trump administration, this wouldn't be trusted. Of course, this is not a political game. This is about saving lives.

I am encouraged by the process that we have seen. I hope people will sign up. When I got into the trial, the Gallup poll that is being done periodically to determine whether people are saying whether they are willing to take it or not was at 50 percent—only 50 percent

of Americans saying they were comfortable getting the vaccine. That number in last couple of weeks has gone up to 58 percent. It is heading in the right direction.

We need people to understand that this is based on science. These vaccines are like the vaccine for smallpox or polio or measles—virtually, wiping out these diseases in this country. My dad had polio as a kid. Now people don't even talk about it. That is because of the vaccine. They work. We have to view it that way.

It is not like the flu vaccine, frankly. The flu vaccine is only effective about one-third of the time. These, what they call efficacy rates, meaning how effective it is, have come in at 90, 95 percent and higher. So we will see what the FDA says here in the next couple of weeks.

I am encouraged that we are likely to get some approvals and likely to begin being able to provide these vaccines for those on the frontlines, for those in long-care facilities, for our first responders, and then out from there to the entire population.

Because these vaccines won't be widely available for 3 or 4 months, we need to act here and act now to provide a bridge to more normal times. That is really how I see it. This is a short-term emergency response to a desperate need we have right now as cases are rising and the economic consequences are being felt in every family in America—more and more pain.

My hope is that Congress will make good on the promise we have seen over the last couple of weeks, where Republicans and Democrats, alike, have come together to say we do have a lot of common ground here; we actually agree on most of this stuff. Who wouldn't be for more money for vaccines and distribution? We need that. Who wouldn't be for more money for small businesses? Who wouldn't be for more money for people who are losing their jobs through no fault of their own? They are struggling to pay the rent and pay their car payment. That is what this legislation can do. I am excited about that possibility.

Meanwhile, in the first week of December, we have lost 13,726 Americans to COVID-19 compared to half that many in the first week of November. In 1 month, we have had a doubling of the number of fatalities. At no point in time during this pandemic have we seen daily mortality rates like this, except in the early days in March and April when New York and New Jersey hospitals were being overrun. We have a real crisis.

Of course, this healthcare crisis is having a direct impact on the economy too. Even with these vaccines on the horizon, it is clear we have to do more to help the economy get through this period of time before we are back to more a normal time.

We have to help, in the short term, to address the impact this healthcare crisis is having on families, on employ-

ment, on businesses, on schools, on nonprofits, and, yes, on State and local governments. As I see it, our job is to provide that bridge so that the economic rebound that we have begun to see can continue.

I am concerned that the recovery we have seen, which has been called a K-shaped recovery—you know, you like to see a recovery come in a V-shape, where you have a recession, you lose jobs and economic growth, and then it comes back up the way it went down. It is called a V-shape. This has been more like a “K.”

For some people, it has been OK. If you are a big-box hardware store or grocery store in America, you are probably doing pretty well right now. If you are a small business, say, a small retail store or sitdown restaurant next to those big boxes, you are not doing OK. You may already be closed down. Your employees may already be unemployed. If not, you are hanging by a thread and hoping and praying that Congress passes legislation to help you.

It has been different for different people. If you have a blue-collar job, you can't telework. If you are in the financial services industry, you are probably doing OK, but if you work in a kitchen making 15 bucks an hour, you are probably not. So it is different for different people in different sectors of our economy. I get that. For some, again, they are doing OK; for others, they are really struggling.

Poverty, overall, is up because of what is happening, and this is sad to me. And we can see it in our communities. Go to your local food bank, see how many cars are lined up, how many people are waiting for 3, 4, 5, in Ohio, sometimes 6 hours just to get food for their families.

Before the pandemic hit, we had very strong economic growth. I think the pro-growth policies that were put in place here in Congress really helped. The tax reform, the tax cuts, the regulatory relief, using our energy—it all was working. We were having a period of growth that was strong, but also it was a very “opportunity” economy. People who had been on the sidelines for years were coming back into our economy. A lot of the benefits were being felt by lower and middle-income workers.

Let me give you an example. In February of this year, just before the pandemic started, we had 19 straight months of wage growth of over 3 percent. That is fantastic. We have been wanting that for a decade and a half in Ohio. We had flat wages, even not keeping up with inflation. Finally, we were seeing wage growth. That 3 percent was compounding and was really helping people feel like if they worked hard and played by the rules, they could get ahead. Sadly, when the coronavirus hit, that ended.

Before the coronavirus, the national poverty rate was the lowest in the history of America. In February, it was 10.5 percent, the lowest rate since we

started tracking this statistic more than 60 years ago. That is the poverty rate. That is incredible. That is what we all want.

After the initial wave of layoffs in the spring, Congress passed the bipartisan CARES Act. That was 9 months ago—9 months ago. It included programs like the stimulus checks and expanded unemployment insurance. It actually helped drive the poverty rate down for a while.

Since then, this continual economic pain felt particularly by low- and middle-income Americans, combined with the lack of action on our part here in Congress to help them, has meant the poverty rate has actually gone back up since May by a significant amount. It now sits at 11.4 percent. That means that 7 million more Americans have fallen into poverty since the spring—7 million.

When you fall into poverty, it is hard to get back out. As long as this economy remains partly shut down—in some of our States, it is largely shut down if you are in the hospitality business or travel business. As long as this happens and we can see more shutdowns in the coming weeks and months, of course, as this crisis continues to worsen, we will see poverty levels rise unless we provide some relief.

Along with the rising poverty rate, what is concerning to me is the fact that more and more people are just giving up hope. There is a stat called the labor force participation rate. It is the share of Americans who are over 16 years old, either working or looking for a job. In February, we hit a 5-year high for labor force participation. That is a good thing. In other words, we had more people participating in the workforce than we had in 5 years.

Unfortunately, it has gone back down. It was up to 63.4 percent. Now it is down to 61.7 percent. The October number works out to a labor force that has nearly 4 million fewer participants than it did in February. Just people participating in the economy has gone down.

Why do we need this package? We have a real problem on our hands. It is a healthcare crisis, but it is also an economic crisis for so many people.

Unfortunately, a record number of women and older Americans are also having to leave the workplace due to either a lack of opportunity or the need to stay home with their kids. For a lot of women, not having childcare is a real problem because the schools are closed. This is driving people out of the workforce as well. This is bad news for businesses trying to reopen, but it is also bad news for our long-term economic health.

People who can't find a way off the sidelines right now won't be able to help power the eventual economic recovery we all hope for, and they will miss out on the economic recovery that does happen. It is a bad position to be in.

We saw with last week's jobs report that hiring is slowing down, meaning that more people may slip out of the labor force. In all, we are still down 10 million jobs in America since February.

Some of my colleagues said to me: My town is doing great or my State is doing great or this industry is doing great. I get that. It is a K-shaped recovery. For some people, it is going well. The fact is that 10 million people—10 million people—that is how many jobs we are down since February.

A further slowdown in the economy is going to be tough for these long-term unemployed. My concern is some may never reenter the workforce without action here to help businesses start hiring again. Some of the hardest hit industries in our States, like the travel, leisure, hospitality industries, are facing real losses.

Our airline industry is expected to cut the equivalent of about 90,000 jobs by the end of this year—90,000 jobs alone in the airline industry. I spoke to the president of American Airlines today. They are big in Ohio. He called. Guess what. He is really eager for us to pass this coronavirus legislation we are talking about. He is really eager because he needs it desperately to hold on to his employees. He doesn't want to furlough any more people, but he doesn't have the business to keep them working.

According to a November survey from the American Hotel and Lodging Association, more than 70 percent of hotels have said that they won't be able to stay in business another 6 months without more assistance—70 percent. Almost 80 percent said they had to lay off more people.

Our restaurant industry lost jobs in November for the first time since April. It is a worrying sign that while restaurants were starting to pick up, things were getting better, in November, because of the news of the high level of cases and the concern people had about going out in public and also, in some States, because of a government edict saying you can't go—in some places, they even said you can't have outdoor dining anymore, not just indoor dining. Think of what this does to those restaurants, most of which are small businesses, family-owned, and were already stressed. Some of those restaurants have closed their doors. I know some of them are never going to reopen again. It is not just restaurants. It is bowling alleys; it is movie theaters; it is the place you get your hair cut. A lot of them are suffering.

A lot of these challenges are going to get worse soon because the number of the programs we put in place in this pandemic to help provide relief for people struggling are going to expire. That is another reason we have to act.

At the end of this year—actually, the day before Christmas—we are going to see some of these programs begin to expire. The pandemic unemployment assistance program that helps the self-

employed, that helps gig economy workers, people who would not normally be eligible for unemployment to be able to step forward and get unemployment insurance, is going to end at the end of this month. That is something a lot of my constituents in Ohio have been depending on if they have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The pandemic emergency employment compensation program that authorizes another 13 weeks of State benefits, helped by the Federal tax dollar, ends at the end of this month.

Of course, there is a moratorium on evictions that ends at the end of this month.

The bottom line is that the people, State and local governments, the industries, the sectors of our economy that have been hardest hit to date by the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 are going to be the ones who are likely to be hurt most by a continued economic slowdown.

As I said, these are problems that, right now, can only be fixed by all of us stepping forward. Congress needs to take action and take action now. We have about a week. We have about a week.

Fortunately, again, I am pleased to say that the proposal that is in the works on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate is going to help. It has a total price tag of \$908 billion, and you have all heard that, probably, if you have been following what has been going on with this continuing negotiation.

It helps everybody. It helps individuals; it helps families; it helps small businesses; it helps industries; it helps those who have been the hardest hit—with targeted resources. It is focused. It is targeted. It is not the \$3.5 trillion legislation that has been talked about over the last several months. It is targeted. It is focused. Actually, although it is \$908 billion, it is really more like \$350 billion because it takes back money that was spent in the CARES Act, which was appropriated by this Congress but not used, and repurposes it for these purposes. So I think it is a focused, targeted effort that will really help.

Again, what is exciting about it is that, today, there was a proposal made that says we have this bipartisan framework, which is very similar, apparently, and my hope is that the Speaker of the House, the majority leader here in the Senate, the Democratic leader here in the Senate, the Republican leader in the House, and the President of the United States can all figure out how to get together and make this work. This bipartisan proposal that we have been working on here, I think, does provide a good template. By the way, all of those actors I talked about—all of those players—have said good things about the proposal.

It has funding in there to extend the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses. It targets those small

businesses that need the help the most. It is really more targeted this time. It is targeted relief for some of our hardest hit industries, including our airlines and our mass transit industry.

It includes funds to help those Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own—the unemployment insurance extension that I talked about earlier. As a bridge to normalcy, we need this funding. It provides funds for State, local, and Tribal governments based on their revenue shortfalls or their expenses due to COVID—in other words, needs-based.

We are also working on commonsense liability reforms to give businesses, nonprofits, schools, healthcare providers, religious organizations, and others the legal protection they need to reopen with the confidence that they are not going to be subjected to frivolous lawsuits that could put them out of business. That is really important because getting these businesses back up and running is a critical part of getting our economy through these next few months. In my view, these protections are essential.

I am hopeful that both sides can now come together and find common ground on liability protections that we can all support. Several of my colleagues are working on a proposal here, right now, in the U.S. Senate. All of this gives us hope that we will have better days around the corner.

By the way, this proposal is not what any of us would write. It is not the proposal I would write. It is not the proposal our Presiding Officer, who is here in the Chamber, would write. Personally, I would put more emphasis on tax incentives for hiring. We have some good proposals for that. I would put tax incentives in place to get businesses to reopen safely—one called the healthy workplaces tax credit so they could get compensated for putting up the partitions or for having the PPE and providing safer work environments. I would expand the work opportunity tax credit to help those, again, who are on the sidelines in order to bring them back to work through a credit. I would help with regard to the employee retention credit, which was in the CARES Act, that could pick up some of these companies that aren't picked up by the PPP program, companies that have slightly more employees, let's say, so that they don't otherwise qualify.

So there is more I would like to do, but do you know what? This proposal is needed. It is needed so badly that, of course, all of us, regardless of our particular interests or our particular ideas, know it is right, and all of us should get behind it. Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the good—I would even say the enemy of the necessary. Targeted relief now, I think, is the right approach.

Most importantly, all of these significant economic problems I laid out and the healthcare crisis I laid out need to be addressed now. As I said ear-

lier, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the health side of this crisis, and our proposal that I have been talking about also helps us get there because it has more funding for vaccine development and vaccine distribution. I talked today to some experts in that area who know a lot more about it than I do, and they said it is necessary. We actually have to provide more funding to keep the vaccine train moving so that, by March and April, we will have it widely available. Again, my hope is that Americans will step up and be vaccinated.

By the way, there is also bipartisan legislation that four of us introduced last week—two Republicans, two Democrats—to provide for a public service campaign, not with politicians talking about the importance, as I am doing tonight, but with the experts talking about why the science says that it is a good idea to get vaccinated—again, just like we do for smallpox or polio or the measles.

Will another COVID-19 bill solve every problem we face right now? No, but we could do a lot with this proposal to help the most vulnerable individuals just get by for the next several months rather than slip into poverty, rather than miss out on mortgage payments or miss out on their rent, miss out on their car payments, and other bad outcomes. We can help the most vulnerable businesses keep their lights on and their employees on payroll. Frankly, this is work we should have been doing months ago, but we are here now. Let's get it done.

My hope is that we can end this year by recapturing that spirit of bipartisanship that was on display in March of this year when we passed the CARES package here in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 96 to nothing. That doesn't happen very often. The CARES Act was not a perfect bill either, but we all recognized it was a bill needed for the moment. I hope we can also recognize that another bill is needed now even if it is not perfect. Let's build on the bipartisan proposal we have put forward, and let's ensure that the people we represent get the targeted economic relief they desperately need in the coming months.

Folks, let's not leave for the holidays until we have done that.

I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when Senator TOM UDALL announced last year that he would not seek reelection, he said, "The worst thing anyone in public office can do is believe the office belongs to them, rather than to the people they represent." Throughout his more than three decades of service to his State and to our Nation, TOM has demonstrated time and again his adherence to that principle. As New Mexico's attorney general, Congressman, and Senator, he has always treated public office as a public trust.

Everyone who serves in this Chamber takes an oath to support and defend our Constitution. That remarkable document begins with three words TOM lives by, "We the People."

That commitment to our Constitution was put to the test in early 2019 when the President issued an emergency declaration that diverted \$ 3.6 billion from 127 military construction projects that Congress duly approved and funded and the President had signed into law. TOM stood strong against this clear violation of the separation of powers doctrine that is so vital to our enduring Republic, and I was proud to stand with him.

In a powerful floor statement on the resolution we introduced to overturn the emergency declaration, TOM got right to the point. He said:

This is no longer about the president's wall. This is not about party. This is about protecting the very heart of our American system of governance. Congress—and only Congress—holds the power of the purse.

TOM also made clear that this encroachment upon Congress's authority was not an isolated incident but part of a dangerous pattern Congress has permitted over many decades and under many Presidents. And make no mistake—the hyperpartisanship that afflicts Congress far too often aids and abets this lamentable historical trend. By pursuing a bipartisan response to this Executive overreach, TOM helped to make real progress in defending the separation of powers.

It has been a pleasure to work with Tom on many other issues over the years. From land conservation and environmental protection to rural health care and pandemic relief, he has been an informed and effective legislative partner.

TOM leaves the Senate with an impressive record of accomplishments. Even more important, he leaves a legacy of reverence for our Constitution and courage in defending it. I thank him for his service to the people of our Nation and wish him well in the years to come.

#### REMEMBERING ERNIE BAPTISTA

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we recently lost a great Rhode Islander, Ernie Baptista.

Ernie was immensely successful in his professional life; his wise counsel was sought not just around the country but around the globe. Ernie was also a civic-minded community leader at home, with a passion for politics. He immersed himself in Rhode Island's political whirl, where he was well liked and well regarded by people of many different political perspectives. Ernie's keen insight and advice was relied upon by many candidates, including myself and Senator REED. We both treasured Ernie's quick wit, sharp intellect, and great sense of humor. He was bright, insightful, and loyal and always provided wise counsel.

Ernie enjoyed the good things in life: good friends, good meals, and good

works. We will fondly remember Ernie with a trademark cigar in hand and a smile on his face and the way his presence filled every room he entered. We will remember his generous and kind spirit, which lifted us all.

Our deepest condolences go to Ernie's beloved family, Sharon, Peter, and Jennifer. We mourn your great loss.

To Ernie, rest in peace, dear friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. BENOR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am honored to thank and congratulate one of my constituents and one of the Federal Government's unsung heroes, David E. "Dave" Benor, who is retiring on January 3, 2021, after more than 48 years of service as a public health attorney at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel, HHS-OGC.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1972, Mr. Benor began his career at HHS-OGC and never left, rising to positions of increasing responsibility throughout the years. Since 2004, he has served as the Associate General Counsel for Public Health. In this leadership role, he has led HHS-OGC's Public Health Division, a 100-person office within HHS-OGC that provides legal services to the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Surgeon General, and multiple agencies that comprise the Public Health Service, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, the Health Services and Resources Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Mr. Benor has worked extensively on product liability, grant law, organ transplant, and vaccine issues, and has particular expertise with the Public Health Service safety net programs, in public health emergency response issues, and in implementing regulatory and compensation programs.

Mr. Benor has dedicated his entire career to implementing HHS's mission to advance the health of all people. He has done this by providing authoritative legal advice on major health initiatives, including those related to bioterrorism preparedness, biomedical research, organ transplantation, vaccine development and liability, and the provision of healthcare to medically underserved populations through such programs as the community health center program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and maternal and child health grants. He has been a key legal adviser on the Department's international health initiatives, including Afghan and Iraqi reconstruction, global AIDS programs, and quarantine activities for diseases such as SARS, pandemic influenza, and monkey pox, and has been part of multidisciplinary teams working on the public health response to the War on Terrorism, including the response to anthrax attacks, smallpox vaccine development,

COVID-19, and pharmaceutical stockpile development.

Mr. Benor has received numerous awards throughout his career. In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Benor the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards that a career Senior Executive Service member may receive.

Dave Benor's impact on public health will be felt for years to come both through his work on a wide variety of public health programs and by the inspiring example he has provided for the many attorneys with whom he worked and mentored. I was pleased to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend as a symbol of our Nation's thanks to this outstanding public servant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dave Benor for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FRYE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the career of New Hampshire State Trooper Scott Frye, who recently retired from the force.

A native of Milford, NH, Scott served with the New Hampshire State Police for more than 22 years as a road trooper, a member of the narcotics unit, and most recently as head of the executive protection detail. During his time in executive protection, Scott served under three Governors, including for 4 years during my time as Governor.

Through our work together, I saw firsthand Scott's commitment to the Granite State. He always sees the big picture; he can step into a room and immediately assess it and the people in it, both as a security risk, but also for need. Scott can find a way to connect with and put almost anyone at ease. As a result, he is greeted as a welcome friend wherever he goes in New Hampshire.

While Scott served for nearly a dozen years on the security detail of Governors, he never lost sight of his commitment and obligation to protect the safety of every person in New Hampshire.

Scott's experience and deep understanding of the Granite State were an important benefit to those he worked with. When we would travel to sites of natural disasters during my time as Governor, Scott always had a sense about who needed to be checked in with and what a community or a public safety official needed in challenging times. Even when his day ended and he was officially off-duty, if he were on his way home and an extra State trooper was needed, he would be there to help in any way that he could.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies Scott's dedication, bravery, and heroism more

than when he was driving Governor John Lynch in 2012 and they witnessed an accident. A car had gone through a guardrail, fallen into an embankment, and caught fire. Scott pulled over, and along with an off-duty firefighter, freed a man who was trapped in the vehicle—just seconds before it was engulfed in flames. For his lifesaving action, Scott was honored with a number of awards, including a Carnegie Medal, a national honor that recognizes those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Throughout his service, Scott approached everything with humor, kindness, and patience. He never complained, and he always served with an incredible amount of professionalism.

Above all, Scott's main commitment was to his family. His service would not have been possible without the support and love of his wife Susan, his sons Zachary and Matthew, and his extended family.

I am grateful for Scott's friendship and his years of dedication to the people of New Hampshire. His retirement is well-deserved, and I know that he will continue to look for ways to improve his community and the entire Granite State.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the years of service of State Trooper Scott Frye.●

##### REMEMBERING DEE BENSON

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Judge Dee Benson, who passed away this week after a heroic battle with cancer. Dee had a remarkable and far-reaching legal career, making an impact throughout Utah and the country. But even more than that, he has made an indelible mark as a beloved teacher, mentor, role model, and friend.

Dee grew up on small farm in Jordan, UT, across from the old Jordan High School. He served a 2-year mission in Sweden for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and afterwards attended BYU, graduating in 1973 with a degree in physical education. After a brief stint as a student teacher and soccer coach at Hillcrest High, he decided to change career paths and on a whim applied to law school.

Dee stumbled onto what would become a brilliant vocation in law. He was one of the very first law students at Brigham Young University, when my late father, Rex Lee, was founding BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. Dee quickly took to law, grasping legal concepts with speed and ease, and soon became a star of his class, even without spending all his time in the library. He was an equally affable student, loved by all of his classmates. A gifted athlete, he still managed to participate in school activities and sports while in law school, even playing for the soccer team during his final year and finishing near the top of his class.

After graduating in 1976, Dee spent a few months playing professional soccer

with the Utah Golden Spikers of the American Soccer League, and then turned to his law career. He started out in private practice, first at Marineau and Mack and then at Christensen and Martineau. He would later be appointed to positions at the highest levels of law by Presidents, Chief Justices, and Senators.

He came to Washington first to work as counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dee was then-Senator Orrin Hatch's chief of staff for 2 years and while there served as counsel on the Iran-Contra Congressional Investigating Committee. He worked as U.S. attorney from 1989 until 1991, when he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, where he served for nearly three decades.

As Federal judge, he was appointed as one of the seven judges to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, frequently flying to Washington to review requests for warrants and wiretaps against suspected spies and terrorists. He was also appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States, a policy-making body within the Federal judicial system.

Dee had a deep love of the law and true impartiality as a jurist. In all of his duties, he never sought to impose his own agenda but simply to get the law right—not according to his own personal beliefs or feelings but as he understood it. And as much as Dee loved the law, he was loved by those around him. He brought kindness, humor, and fun to every environment. He was known to keep a bicycle in his chambers and a dart board for his clerks.

I myself was lucky enough to have him as my first boss when I clerked for him the year after I graduated from law school. I learned more about the practice of law during that clerkship than I did during all 3 years of law school combined. I will never forget our countless conversations about the law—deep dives on everything from compelled-speech doctrine, the coconspirator hearsay rule, and the requirements for authenticating so-called “ancient documents” under the Federal Rules of Evidence—in the courtroom and in his chambers and sometimes even while mountain biking or during a game of ping pong or darts.

Everyone at the courthouse—from the prosecutors to the defense counsel, from civil litigants to criminal defendants, from probation officers to support staff—loved and learned daily from Judge Benson. Despite his keen intellect and prominence, he was one of the most humble, genuine people I have ever known. He cared deeply about the happiness of those around them and left everyone more happy and encouraged than when he found them. He treated each person who came into his courtroom with dignity and respect, no matter who you were.

Throughout the years, Dee retained his passion for sports and zest for life. He ran marathons, was an avid mountain biker, and mastered every sport that caught his interest. He was a devoted father who, despite the many demands on his time, seemed to maintain constant contact with each of his four children, taking delight in every word they uttered and every activity they pursued.

Even his cancer diagnosis would not dampen his spirit or slow him down. After being partially paralyzed and bedridden this past May, by the end of the month he had returned to his chambers in Salt Lake City and had come into work as recently as last week—steadfast and strong until the end.

Judge Dee Benson was a true public servant, a gift to Utah and to everyone who had the good fortune to meet him. For those of us who knew and loved Dee, the world will now seem incomplete; but it has been an honor and a blessing to call him a mentor and a friend. ●

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

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#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:17 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1153. An act to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 461. An act to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

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#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today,

December 8, 2020, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

At 6:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company

Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6036. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, General Law and Research Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6037. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, General Law and Research Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6038. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending Certain Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990" (31 CFR Parts 501, 510, 535, 536, 541, 542, 544, 546, 547, 548, 549, 560, 561, 566, 576, 583, 584, 588, 592, 594, 597, and 598) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6039. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Statement on Central Counterparties Authorized under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation Seeking to Register as a Clearing Agency or to Request Exemption from Certain Requirements Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6040. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Statement on Certain Provisions of Business Conduct Standards for Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants" (RIN3235-AL10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6041. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign

Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the North Korea Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 510) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6042. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 541) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6043. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the Syria-related Sanctions Regulations as a New Part 569 in 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Part 569) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6044. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Nicaragua Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 582, to Incorporate the Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018" (31 CFR Parts 582) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6045. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending Appendix A of the Reporting, Procedures, and Penalties Regulations, 31 CFR Part 501, to Amend the Definition of 'Applicable Schedule Amount' Contained in Appendix A" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6046. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Economic Sanctions Enforcement Guidelines in OFAC's Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations, 31 CFR Part 501 Appendix A" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6047. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Making Amendments to 31 CFR Part 515, the Cuban Asset Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6048. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the International Criminal Court-Related Sanctions Regulations as a New Part 520 in 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Parts 520) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6049. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 544, and the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 560" (31 CFR Parts 544, and 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6050. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Making Amendments to 31 CFR Part 515, the Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6051. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Organ Procurement Organizations Conditions for Coverage: Revisions to the Outcome Measure Requirements for Organ Procurement Organizations; Final Rule" (RIN0938-AU02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6052. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Most Favored Nation (MFN) Model (CMS-5528-IFC)" (RIN0938-AT91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6053. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Leave and Holidays for U.S. Personal Services Contractors, Including Family and Medical Leave" (RIN0412-AA86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6054. A communication from the Executive Secretary, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6055. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Rules for Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies Financed by USAID during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (RIN0412-AB02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6056. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6057. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Information Blocking and the ONC Health IT Certification Program: Extension of Compliance Dates and Timeframes in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" (RIN0955-AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6058. A communication from the Director of Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Change in Initial Guarantee Fee and Annual Guarantee Fee" (RIN0575-AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6059. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program" (RIN0955-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6060. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment" ((RIN1117-AB55) (Docket No. DEA-499)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6061. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methods of Withdrawing Funds from the Thrift Savings Plan" (5 CFR Parts 1650) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6062. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for USAID's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6063. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Introduction" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two (2) legislative proposals relative to the President of the United States' Fiscal Year 2021 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6065. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6066. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Oliceridine in Schedule II" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-715)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6067. A communication from the Program Analyst, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Further Streamlining of Part 25 Rules Governing Satellite Services" ((FCC 20-159) (IB Docket No. 18-134)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6068. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of the Commission's Part 76 Review Procedures, Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, Revision of the Commission's Program Carriage Rules" ((MB Docket No. 20-70, 17-105, and 11-131) (FCC 20-162)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3152. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps (Rept. No. 116-304).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4393. A bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 4511. A bill to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4972. A bill 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BURR, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4973. A bill to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of compensation to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur disabilities resulting from certain injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of compensation to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4974. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for the installation of energy efficient air source heat pumps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4975. A bill to require covered entities to implement and disclose information moderation policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4976. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to reform the Generalized System of Preferences to better protect United States workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4977. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that a court decree, court order, or other similar process expressly provides for an annuity supplement payment; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 4978. A bill to require a study and report on a potential transfer of Israel to the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4979. A bill to terminate the Department of Education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4980. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to support research and programmatic efforts that will build on previous research on the effects of adverse childhood experiences; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4981. A bill to support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4982. A bill to provide incentives for the production of semiconductors for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 796. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 797. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 1869; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 307

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 307, a bill to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 983

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 983, a bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the weatherization assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3250

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3250, a bill to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes.

S. 3418

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3418, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4433, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 4461

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator

from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4461, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 4564

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4564, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 4593

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4593, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 4613

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4613, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to prevent certain automated calls and to require notice of the availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients, and for other purposes.

S. 4711

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4711, a bill to provide for judicial security and privacy.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4711, supra.

S. 4730

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4730, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes.

S. 4848

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4848, a bill to continue the whole-of-government approach to ending global wildlife poaching and trafficking by permanently reauthorizing the activities of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. 4927

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4927, a bill to exclude EIDL advance amounts from the calculation of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 4965

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4965, a bill to regulate the posting of personal information of government officials on the internet, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 81, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S. CON. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 50, a concurrent resolution urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

S. RES. 774

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 774, a resolution honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

S. RES. 778

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 778, a resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 15, 2020.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 796—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 796

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt coined the phrase "United Nations" in January 1942;

Whereas 50 countries met in San Francisco to draw up the Charter of the United Nations in 1945;

Whereas, on June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on October 24, 1945;

Whereas, June 26, 2020, marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations;

Whereas, on September 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the cornerstone for modern-day human rights and the world's most translated document;

Whereas, in September 1960, 17 newly independent countries, including 16 from Africa, joined the United Nations, marking the biggest increase in membership in any one year;

Whereas the United Nations has greatly contributed to international peace and security;

Whereas the United Nations has provided a forum for the achievement of international cooperation to address international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems, including promoting cooperation on climate change, supporting human rights, and combating human trafficking;

Whereas, since 1948, the United Nations has deployed 71 peacekeeping and observation missions to some of the world's most complex regions and countries;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeeping missions have been charged with mandates to stabilize conflict zones after a cease-fire, assist in the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements, protect civilians from violence, facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities, and create stable governing institutions in fragile states;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeepers played an instrumental role in stabilizing Liberia following two devastating civil wars, paving the way in 2018 for the first peaceful transition of power between democratically elected Presidents in the country since 1944;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeepers helped to avert a genocide in the Central African Republic, continue to protect tens of thousands of civilians from ethnic and political violence in South Sudan, provide security to health workers battling the second largest Ebola outbreak in history in eastern Congo, and play an important role in ensuring that calm and stability prevail along the Israel-Lebanon border;

Whereas, in 2006, under the leadership of the United Nations, member nations adopted

the first-ever global strategy to counter terrorism, which was followed by other global agreements, including agreements against hostage taking, aircraft hijacking, terrorism bombings, and terrorism financing;

Whereas the United States has used its permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council to push for the adoption of multilateral sanctions, including asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargoes, trade restrictions, and other measures, against terrorist organizations like al-Qaida and ISIS, rogue states that seek to obtain weapons of mass destruction like North Korea, and countries embroiled by internal armed conflict such as South Sudan;

Whereas the United Nations has provided electoral assistance to more than 100 countries and helped facilitate the transition to democracy in these countries, observing landmark elections in Cambodia, El Salvador, South Africa, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Iraq, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Sierra Leone;

Whereas the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, requiring member nations to commit to eradicating extreme poverty, fighting inequality, empowering women and girls, protecting natural resources, improving governance, and encouraging sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

Whereas the United Nations has played a critical role in improving global public health, including through the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the World Health Organization, a United Nations specialized agency, serves as a multilateral coordinating body responsible for monitoring and leading the response to outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life-threatening illnesses like polio and malaria;

Whereas the World Health Organization played a central role in the eradication of smallpox in 1979, to date the only human disease ever to be eradicated;

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund aims to end the unmet need for family planning, end preventable maternal deaths, and end gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030 in all countries, including those affected by conflict and disaster;

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund has helped reduce maternal mortality by half since 1990;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund is active in 190 countries and territories to reach the children and young people in greatest need;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Program reaches more than 86,000,000 people in 83 countries annually;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture, and is preserving 1,073 World Heritage sites in 167 countries;

Whereas today, with global population displacement at the highest level recorded since World War II, the World Food Program, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations agencies, is feeding, clothing, and sheltering millions from Syria, Iraq, the Central African Republic, and numerous other countries;

Whereas the ongoing COVID-19 crisis highlights the need for strong and collective multilateral action;

Whereas, since the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the entire United Nations system has been hard at work: The World Health Organization (WHO) is on the

ground in over 140 countries helping countries scale-up testing and access essential personal protective equipment, while also coordinating research and innovation efforts to advance drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics; the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is scaling up assistance to refugee camps; UNICEF is supporting the millions of children who are out of school; the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is strengthening health systems to ensure reproductive and maternal health care; the World Food Programme (WFP) has established air hubs to distribute vital food and medical supplies across Africa; and United Nations peacekeeping missions are using troop patrols to educate on mitigation measures.

Whereas, in Yemen, which has been on the brink of famine for several years and where 80 percent of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, United Nations agencies are working to reach 12,000,000 people each month with food and nutritional assistance, respond to a cholera epidemic that has sickened nearly 1,000,000 people since January 2018, rehabilitate irrigation systems and provide agricultural inputs to increase domestic food production, and provide reproductive health care and safe delivery services to women;

Whereas the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, is working to broker a diplomatic solution to the conflict and organized the first direct talks between the Government of Yemen and Houthis in December 2018, resulting in an agreement for a cease-fire and military redeployment from the port of Hodeidah;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights plays a leading role in helping to elevate and advance human rights throughout the world;

Whereas, in recent years, the Office of the High Commissioner has aided efforts to uncover and report on abuses in Syria, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Myanmar, Iraq, Belarus, and a host of other countries;

Whereas these types of activities help raise public awareness of human rights violations, magnify the voices of dissidents and civil society organizations on the ground, and provide a tool for pressuring repressive governments and holding abusers accountable;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has implemented key reforms, and continues to be committed to instituting necessary reforms to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations and strengthen oversight;

Whereas 2020 marks the start of the decade of action and delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals, major conferences on climate change, biodiversity, nuclear non-proliferation, and health, the 25th anniversary of the landmark Beijing World Conference on Women, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and the 10th anniversary of United Nations Women, among others;

Whereas the United Nations remains an indispensable partner for the United States as Congress works to protect United States national security and foreign policy interests around the world;

Whereas the United Nations conducts business with numerous United States corporations and organizations and annually awards United States businesses with over \$1,000,000,000 in contracts;

Whereas these contracts were executed in 30 States and more than 100 cities and communities, benefitting hundreds of Americans who work to provide the United Nations a range of critical goods and services, including telecommunications, construction, food production, and military supplies; and

Whereas the participation and leadership by the United States in the United Nations is essential to securing United States interests in international peace and security: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations;

(2) recognizes the United Nations for the critical role it plays in maintaining international peace and security;

(3) applauds the United Nations for its leadership and ongoing efforts in addressing global health crises, including the global fight against HIV/AIDS;

(4) applauds the United Nations for its response to unprecedented humanitarian crises that have resulted in staggering escalation of displacements and suffering in countries such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(5) commends the United Nations for its commitment to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and

(6) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 797—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR PAUL SPYROS SARBANES AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF PAUL SPYROS SARBANES ON HIS PASSING

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 797

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was born on February 3, 1933, in Salisbury, Maryland, to Matina and Spyros P. Sarbanes, who had emigrated from Laconia, Greece;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes graduated from Wicomico High School and earned a full scholarship and a bachelor's degree from the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1954;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes earned a Rhodes Scholarship and graduated from Balliol College of the University of Oxford with a First Class degree in 1957, and then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1960;

Whereas, in 1960, Paul Spyros Sarbanes married his wife, Christine Dunbar, who was his partner in all his endeavors, in addition to being a wonderful teacher of the classics, Latin, Greek, and French, an avid reader, and a volunteer with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Walters Art Museum, and the Baltimore Volunteer Groups to the United States Fund for UNICEF;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes and his late wife Christine have—

(1) 3 children, John, Michael, and Janet; and

(2) 7 grandchildren;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes drew inspiration and passion for public service from the ancient Greeks, who said, "those who lived only in private life were falling short";

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, Maryland, and held the highest lay office of the Church, "Order of St. Andrew, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate";

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1966;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1970, and in 1974, he introduced the first articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon for obstruction of justice;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the United States Senate in 1976, and served on the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Foreign Relations, and Budget of the Senate, and the Joint Economic Committee;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes's long-time partner in the Senate, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, jokingly referred to them as "diner Democrats" in recognition of his parents, who owned a restaurant, and hers, who owned a grocery store, and their dedication to the everyday concerns of Marylanders and the people of the United States;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes developed a reputation for honesty, intellect, and integrity, working cooperatively with his colleagues and preferring results over credit;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes had a deep understanding of economic issues, honed as an aide to Walter Heller on President John F. Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors, and was a leader on critical financial issues including the Community Reinvestment Act, affordable housing, and anti-money laundering efforts;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes served as Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and wrote the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which passed the Senate unanimously, to reform and strengthen oversight of corporate governance and the accounting industry in the wake of the Enron scandal;

Whereas President George W. Bush said the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 included "the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt" and President Barack Obama called it "a towering achievement

that will strengthen the American economy for many years to come”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a champion of the Chesapeake Bay, working to improve access through the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and to improve the health of the Bay with the Chesapeake Restoration Act, oyster restoration, and the Poplar Island project;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes had a reputation as a man of deep principle, which led to his inclusion in the impeachment proceedings against President Richard Nixon and the investigations into Iran Contra and Whitewater;

Whereas journalist and author Elizabeth Drew, writing about Watergate, wrote of Paul Spyros Sarbanes, “History and process lift people, and they have lifted this group—and given the public a chance to see it. Paul Sarbanes would not have looked at all bad at the Constitutional Convention; he might have been one of the great ones”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was committed to the United States’ leadership in the world, sought peaceful engagement with our allies, played a key role in the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties and anti-apartheid laws, and voted against the authorization of use of military force in Iraq in 2003;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes received numerous awards for his time in service, including the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award, the Rolfe Award for Extraordinary Impact on Policy in Economics, Business, and Finance, and the Cox, Coleman, Richardson Award for Distinguished Public Service;

Whereas, in his farewell speech to the Senate, Paul Spyros Sarbanes said, “Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based on the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by a vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes continued in his farewell speech that “Service in this body has reinforced, many times over, my understanding and commitment to the institutions upon which our system of democratic governance critically depends” and “So long as the vision of America’s promise continues to shine brightly in this body, I have every confidence that our Nation will prevail in the face of great challenges and that its future will be assured”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was the longest-serving Senator from the State of Maryland when he retired in 2006;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes served as a mentor and friend to his colleagues and the dedicated staff in his offices on Capitol Hill and in the State of Maryland;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes will be remembered for—

(1) his intellect, understanding of issues, and incisive questioning of witnesses before his committees;

(2) the trust he built and wisdom and counsel he shared with his colleagues; and

(3) his unwavering commitment to the people of the United States, and especially the people he served in Maryland; and

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and son who passed away on December 6, 2020, at the age of 87: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former member of the United States Senate;

(B) recognizes the life and achievements of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes;

(C) expresses condolences to the family of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing; and

(D) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1869

Mr. PETERS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 51

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That in the enrollment of S. 1869, an Act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall, in section 4(c)(3) of the Act, strike “thereafter for years” and insert “thereafter for 9 years”.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2694. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2694. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safe-guarding Therapeutics Act”.

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “or counterfeit device” after “counterfeit drug”; and

(2) by striking “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of” and all that follows through “liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).” and inserting the following: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of any such article refused admission unless such article is exported, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, within 90 days

of the date of notice of such refusal or within such additional time as may be permitted pursuant to such regulations, except that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may destroy, without the opportunity for export, any drug or device refused admission under this section, if such drug or device is valued at an amount that is \$2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1))) and was not brought into compliance as described under subsection (b). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations providing for notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services and introduce testimony, as described in the first sentence of this subsection, on destruction of a drug or device under the seventh sentence of this subsection. The regulations shall provide that prior to destruction, appropriate due process is available to the owner or consignee seeking to challenge the decision to destroy the drug or device. Where the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice and an opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the destruction of a drug or device, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall store and, as applicable, dispose of the drug or device after the issuance of the notice, except that the owner and consignee shall remain liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).”

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) as clauses (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) after making such redesignations—

(A) by striking “(h) The term” and inserting “(h)(1) The term”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The term ‘counterfeit device’ means a device which, or the container, packaging, or labeling of which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark or imprint, or any likeness thereof, or is manufactured using a design, of a device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such device and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.”

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION, OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Aviation, Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my staff—Ned Adriance, Lauren Arias, Clinton Cowan, Renee Gasper, Cara Gilbert, Annie Orloff, Leo Sheehan, and Lisa Van Theemsche—be given floor privileges for the remainder of the 116th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Doug Galuszka, military fellow in Senator BRAUN's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### SECURE FEDERAL LEASES FROM ESPIONAGE AND SUSPICIOUS ENTANGLEMENTS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1869.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1869) entitled "An Act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1869

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 51, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) correcting the enrollment of S. 1869.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask further that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANT RELIEF ACT OF 2020

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 587, S. 3729.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3729) to provide relief for the recipients of financial assistance awards from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3729) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3729

*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 "Motor Carrier Safety Grant Relief Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. RELIEF FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS FROM THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) RELIEF FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—

(1) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code (including any applicable period of availability under section 31104(f) of that title), and any regulations promulgated under that chapter and subject to subparagraph (B), the period of availability during which a recipient may expend amounts made available to the recipient under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) shall be—

(i) for a grant made under section 31102 of that title (other than subsection (1) of that section)—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 2 fiscal years;

(ii) for a grant made or a cooperative agreement entered into under section 31102(1)(2) of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant or cooperative agreement; and

(II) the following 3 fiscal years;

(iii) for a grant made under section 31102(1)(3) of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 5 fiscal years;

(iv) for a grant made under section 31103 of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 2 fiscal years; and

(v) for a grant made or a cooperative agreement entered into under section 31313 of that title—

(I) the year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant or cooperative agreement; and

(II) the following 5 fiscal years.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—

(i) AMOUNTS AWARDED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—The periods of availability described in subparagraph (A) shall apply only—

(I) to amounts awarded for fiscal year 2019 or 2020 under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) of that subparagraph; and

(II) for the purpose of expanding the period of availability during which the recipient may expend the amounts described in subclause (I).

(ii) AMOUNTS AWARDED FOR OTHER YEARS.—The periods of availability described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any amounts awarded under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) of that subparagraph for any fiscal year other than fiscal year 2019 or 2020, and those amounts shall be subject to the period of availability otherwise applicable to those amounts under Federal law.

(2) REALLOCATION OF RELEASED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts released back to the Secretary under section 31104(i) of title 49, United States Code, that were made available to the Secretary under section 31104(a) of that title for fiscal year 2019 or 2020 shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations under Federal law.

#### TELEWORK FOR U.S. INNOVATION ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 569, S. 4138.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4138) to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a telework travel expenses program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4138) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4138

*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 "Telework for U.S. Innovation Act".

**SEC. 2. TELEWORK TRAVEL EXPENSES PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5711 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "test";

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "committee" and inserting "committees"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "Government";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "test"; and

(ii) by striking "section , including the provision of reports in accordance with subsection (d)(1)" and inserting "subsection";

(C) in paragraph (4)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "and maintain" after "develop"; and

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "test"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) The Director of the Patent and Trademark Office shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on the operation of the program under this subsection, which shall include—

"(i) the costs and benefits of the program; and

"(ii) an analysis of the effectiveness of the program, as determined under criteria developed by the Director.;" and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking "this section" and inserting "subsection (b)".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5711 and inserting the following:

"5711. Authority for telework travel expenses programs."

**STATE VETERANS HOMES DOMICILIARY CARE FLEXIBILITY ACT**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4460 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4460) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive certain eligibility requirements for a veteran to receive per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4460) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4460

*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 "State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act".

**SEC. 2. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR RECEIPT OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR DOMICILIARY CARE AT STATE HOMES AND MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH PAYMENTS.**

(a) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1741 of title 38, United States Code (as amended by subsection (b)), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall modify section 51.51(b) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to provide the Secretary the authority to waive the requirements under such section 51.51(b) for a veteran to be eligible for per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home if—

(1) the veteran has met not fewer than four of the requirements set forth in such section; or

(2) such waiver would be in the best interest of the veteran.

(b) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1741(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the flush text following subparagraph (B), by striking "in a Department facility" and inserting "under the laws administered by the Secretary".

(c) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term "State home" has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SAFEGUARDING THERAPEUTICS ACT**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5663 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5663) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2694) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Safeguarding Therapeutics Act".

**SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DEVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting "or counterfeit device" after "counterfeit drug"; and

(2) by striking "The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of" and all that follows through "liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c)." and inserting the following: "The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of any such article refused admission unless such article is exported, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, within 90 days of the date of notice of such refusal or within such additional time as may be permitted pursuant to such regulations, except that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may destroy, without the opportunity for export, any drug or device refused admission under this section, if such drug or device is valued at an amount that is \$2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1))) and was not brought into compliance as described under subsection (b). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations providing for notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services and introduce testimony, as described in the first sentence of this subsection, on destruction of a drug or device under the seventh sentence of this subsection. The regulations shall provide that prior to destruction, appropriate due process is available to the owner or consignee seeking to challenge the decision to destroy the drug or device. Where the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice and an opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the destruction of a drug or device, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall store and, as applicable, dispose of the drug or device after the issuance of the notice, except that the owner and consignee shall remain liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c)."

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) as clauses (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) after making such redesignations—

(A) by striking "(h) The term" and inserting "(h)(1) The term"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) The term 'counterfeit device' means a device which, or the container, packaging, or labeling of which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark or imprint, or any likeness thereof, or is manufactured using a design, of a device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such device and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor."

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5663), as amended, was passed.

**PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO ENHANCE NEEDED TIME WITH SONS AND DAUGHTERS ACT OF 2020**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 3325 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3325) to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to use incentive payments available under the child support enforcement program to improve parent-child relationships, increase child support collections, and improve outcomes for children by supporting parenting time agreements for noncustodial parents in uncontested agreements, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PORTMAN. I know of no further debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3325) was passed, as follows:

S. 3325

*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 "Providing Adequate Resources to Enhance Needed Time with Sons and Daughters Act of 2020" or the "PARENTS Act of 2020".

**SEC. 2. EXPANDING PERMITTED USES OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**

Section 458 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 658a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) to develop, implement, and evaluate procedures for establishing a parenting time agreement when establishing an initial or modified child support order or a medical support order (including procedures for carrying out a parenting time agreement made prior to the establishment or modification of any such order); or"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) DEFINITIONS OF PARENTING TIME AGREEMENT AND NONCUSTODIAL PARENT.—

"(1) PARENTING TIME AGREEMENT.—For purposes of subsection (f)(2), the term 'parenting time agreement' means an agreement governing how much time a child spends with the child's custodial parent and the child's noncustodial parent that is mutually agreed to by the parents and is not contested by either parent in any forum.

"(2) NONCUSTODIAL PARENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'noncustodial parent' means the parent of a child that the child does not live with for the majority of the child's time."

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE 116TH CONGRESS**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 116th Congress and that Members have until Friday, December 18, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDER OF PROCEDURE**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions with respect to Executive Calendar Nos. 912, 913, and 914 be withdrawn. I further ask that at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order on which cloture was filed; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Cooksey nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and it be in order for Senator MENENDEZ or his designee to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78; and if either motion is made, that there be 4 hours of debate concurrently on the

motions, equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the joint resolutions, with Senator MENENDEZ controlling 15 minutes of the proponents' time immediately prior to the first vote; finally, that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78 in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Dickerson nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 797 as further mark of respect for the late Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former Senator for the State of Maryland.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 8, 2020:

**THE JUDICIARY**

STEPHEN SIDNEY SCHWARTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

NATHAN A. SIMINGTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2019.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for roll call vote number 236, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended on H. Res. 512 Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, I would have voted Yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 237, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended on S. 46, HBCU PARTNERS Act, I would have voted Yea.

### HONORING MAYOR ELIZABETH PATTERSON

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, and to celebrate her retirement from the City of Benicia after 17 years of public service.

Born in Los Angeles, Mayor Patterson has lived in Benicia since 1983. Prior to her time in local government, she worked for California's Department of Water Resources as an environmental scientist for three decades and served as the Executive Director of the Partnership for Regional Livability on the White House Task Force on Livable Communities under President Clinton. In 2003, Mayor Patterson was elected to the Benicia City Council, where she served for four years before being elected as Mayor in 2007.

Throughout her years of leadership in Benicia, Mayor Patterson has championed environmental preservation initiatives. She was instrumental in the creation of Benicia's Community Sustainability Commission, which will promote environmentally friendly economic development for years to come. Mayor Patterson has also played a vital role in enacting Benicia's Water Smart Program, both conserving water and lowering costs for the community. Beyond her commitment to sustainability, Mayor Patterson has been a leader in promoting cultural advancement and preservation in Benicia by creating Benicia's Arts and Cultural Commission and increasing the number of designated historical properties.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Patterson is an outstanding public servant with a deep dedication to her community. Even in retirement, she plans to continue fighting for environmental protections. Mayor Patterson exemplifies true leadership and integrity, and she will have a lasting impact on the City of Benicia. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL J. PETYO, SR.

#### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Michael J. Petyo, who passed in July at the age of 91.

Michael was a Minnesotan, and a resident of Belle Plaine and Coon Rapids. He proudly served as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and was a veteran of the Korean War.

Michael and his wife of 67 years, Dorothy, raised a beautiful family with six children, sixteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

On July 11, Michael was interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, in a monument to his service to our state and nation.

My thoughts are with the Petyo family, who have suffered a great loss: that of a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Michael's dedication to service for the public good is enshrined in his legacy and his family.

### IN HONOR OF TERRI COOK

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terri Cook, an outstanding public servant, as she retires from her position as City Clerk for the City of Belmont. Terri was elected as clerk in 2002 and served as an elected official until this year when the position transitioned to an appointed one.

City clerks are an integral part of the operation of a city. Clerks must keep accurate records of city council meetings and votes as well as minutes and votes from numerous commissions and advisory boards. The outcome of lawsuits over city actions sometimes hinges on accurate records, as does the eligibility of the city for federal and state funding. Elections to the city council or to other elected positions are operated by the clerk's office, and Terri enjoys serving as an authority for new candidates.

Terri has many other responsibilities as a clerk. She was the liaison to the group that created the Veteran's Memorial in Twin Pines Park, and she helped her friend, the late councilmember Eric Reed, fulfill this dream of a memorial before his own untimely passing. She took over the annual veteran's recognition and has been its lead ever since. She also worked with the city to adopt the 101st Airborne Division, I-327th Infantry C Company based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Among other activities, she helped ship nonperishable goods to these troops during overseas deployments.

Terri's family has lived in Belmont since 1931 and her priorities both as a candidate

and volunteer reflect her love of the city. Her career in public service spans a remarkable 37 years as she served as an administrative assistant in the San Carlos schools, as a member of the Belmont Planning Commission from 1993 to 1997, and then as a Belmont City Council member from 1997 to 2002. She was mayor in 1999.

As a civic activist she opposed construction of a massive, double-deck overpass at the intersection of the El Camino and Ralston Avenue, and supported preservation of Twin Pines Park. In her volunteer work she served as an open space task force member, a member of the board of the Belmont Park Boosters, an historical society member, as an advisor to the schools on facility renovation, and as a member of her homeowner's association.

When she ran for the city council, this lifelong resident focused on quality of life issues. One priority was clearly stated in her candidate's statement: traffic, traffic, traffic.

To relieve congestion, she supported a grade separation at the Caltrain tracks and Ralston Avenue, a project that subsequently came to pass, and the need to protect parks and open spaces. She also supported rebuilding a fire station, developing a town hall format for council meetings so that the public could interact with the council in a more productive manner, and a revision of the city's sign ordinance to reduce visual clutter. As a planning commissioner and city council member, she supported the renovation or creation of many tax-generating businesses such as a local auto dealership, a new grocery store, approval of several hotels, and the maintenance of Belmont's small-town atmosphere. While I was a member of the state legislature, Terri would sometimes call. I always took the call and often heeded her insightful advice.

Madam Speaker, Terri Cook looks upon the community as her family and her dedication to the city and its future is legendary. We wish her well in the years ahead. All who love a community eventually get to pass along the reins of leadership to the next generation. As Terri Cook does so, she will leave her community in good order and with much of her imprint upon its features. She will long be remembered and admired by all of us. This fond remembrance is a lasting testament to a remarkable local leader.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 233: S. 2981 To reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes—on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill—NAY; Roll Call 234: Republican Motion to Recommit H.R. 3884 With Instructions—YEA; and Roll Call 235: H.R. 3884 MORE Act—NAY.

## IN TRIBUTE TO EMILIO E. LOPEZ

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Emilio E. Lopez, an icon in the Hispanic community and the City of Milwaukee. He passed away on October 31, 2020. He was 70 years old. I offer my sincere condolences to Emilio's family and have them in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Lopez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and arrived in the U.S. at the age of 3. He grew up on Milwaukee's east side with his parents and siblings. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1968 and was the Prom King. Emilio went on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was president of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity before attending law school. Soon after, he dutifully served as the Assistant District Attorney of Milwaukee and even ran for circuit court judge and alderman; paving the way for future Latino candidates.

Realizing he wanted to work outside the confines of the courtroom, Emilio went on to empower thousands of youth in the community. Some of his notable achievements include his work as the Athletic Director of the United Community Center (UCC). He encouraged youths to stay off the streets by hosting late night basketball games and mentoring. His hard work was instrumental in the implementation of youth and drug rehabilitation programs for the Latino Community.

Emilio was also an educator and worked as the Principal of Aurora Weier Educational Center, a high school serving high risk students. He raised significant funds to renovate the former city natatorium into new classrooms, a new gymnasium, and science lab. He was President and Founder of the Felix Mantilla Little League, where he coached youths. He also served as the Associate Executive Director at the Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) for a number of years. In his spare time, he dedicated his time to the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officer Association. He was a true Milwaukee treasure and above all he was a devout husband, loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, relative and friend to many in Milwaukee.

Emilio lived a purposeful life, one of service dedicated to his community as an advocate

and leader to countless Hispanic and Latino families on Milwaukee's Southside. Emilio's positive impact and generosity knew no bounds; he was well known and respected throughout our city and was recognized as Hispanic Man of the Year in 1992 for his contributions to the community.

I am pleased to say I had the pleasure to work closely with Emilio when he served as Associate Director at the MCC and led the federally funded Youthbuild Program. He was a true Milwaukee treasure and we are all benefactors.

Madam Speaker, Emilio E. Lopez was a valued member of the Milwaukee community, the 4th Congressional District, and the entire State of Wisconsin. I applaud and value his contributions as a public servant and am pleased to honor the late Emilio E. Lopez.

## HONORING MAYOR BOB SAMPAYAN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Bob Sampayan in honor of the impact he had on the community of Vallejo, California during his tenure as mayor and his achievements as a public servant.

Raised in Salinas, California, Mayor Sampayan graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He worked as a police officer in Salinas and Palo Alto before joining the Vallejo Police Department in 1985. After 27 years as a Vallejo police officer, Mayor Sampayan retired as a Sergeant to join a local non-profit, overseeing several neighborhood revitalization projects. In 2011, he returned to public service after being elected to the Vallejo City Council, where he served for four years before being elected in 2016 as the first Filipino American to serve as Mayor in the City of Vallejo.

Mayor Sampayan has had a significant impact during his years of public service. His work on the council has been vital to the development and improvement of Mare Island. While on the City Council, he also played a key role in Vallejo's financial recovery from bankruptcy and worked to create economic stability for the City. As Mayor, he has overseen an annual budget reserve of nearly \$1 million, ensuring Vallejo's fiscal wellbeing in the years to come. He has also fought for solutions to the housing crisis and to improve homelessness in Vallejo, successfully securing over \$7 million in funding to create a resource center for the unsheltered. Mayor Sampayan has been a fierce advocate of sustainable growth and development for the City, and his leadership and dedication have undoubtedly been an inspiration to those who have known him.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Sampayan is a committed public servant and outstanding leader who has dedicated his life to serving his community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING LIEUTENANT  
COMMANDER JAMES LYONS**HON. STEVE SCALISE**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lieutenant Commander James Lyons for his faithful service to our country as an esteemed member of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. In this capacity, Lieutenant Commander Lyons facilitated interaction between the Department of the Navy and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. These engagements included, but were not limited to, formal responses to congressional inquiries, counsel to Members and staff, and execution of congressional and staff delegations. These interactions were pivotal in providing Members and staff a greater understanding of the issues facing our Navy and its sailors.

I am particularly proud to note that Lieutenant Commander Lyons planned and executed CODEL Scalise to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility to visit key U.S. allies in Central and South America in order to update Members on the role of China in the region, bilateral trade and regional trading relationships, and the role of U.S. military, security, and humanitarian aid in improving regional stability and preserving our relationships in the AOR. I am forever grateful for his leadership, persistence, and support of CODEL Scalise.

Lieutenant Lyons' distinguished career began after commissioning in the U.S. Navy from the George Washington University. After completing flight training in Pensacola, FL and Meridian, MS, Lieutenant Commander Lyons received his Wings of Gold and was assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Thirty to fly the venerable C-2 Greyhound. During his time as a "Provider", James deployed to 4th Fleet area of operations, logged 1000 flight hours, completed 89 carrier arrested landings and was named 2017 Pacific Fleet Greyhound Pilot of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I commend and thank Lieutenant Commander James Lyons on his service to the United States of America, the House of Representatives, and my office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing him today.

## HONORING YING TANG

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Ying C. Tang, who passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at the age of 92. Ying was a legend among us, part of the greatest generation who answered the call of duty and valiantly served his country to protect American values at home and abroad. In recognition of his bravery, patriotism, and commitment to preserving our liberty, Ying was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian recognition granted by Congress. Ying's life embodied the greatest ideals of our nation, and

for his selfless service and sacrifice, we are forever indebted.

A true native son of Arizona, Ying was born in the back room of Sunrise Grocery Store, the family business, located at the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Indian School Road in the heart of central Phoenix. The fourth of 12 children, Ying attended Glendale High School before enlisting in the U.S. Navy at the young age of 18. He willingly served during World War II from 1945 to 1946 before returning to Arizona to build a life in the state he called home.

Upon his return to Phoenix, Ying devoted himself to the family grocery store. What started from his father's humble beginnings sparked his passion to expand the family business into a chain that served many in our community. His fidelity to family and the business they created cultivated his entrepreneurial legacy. Whether in real estate, commercial investments, retail projects, or any of his business pursuits, Ying treated his colleagues and community partners with dignity and respect as if they were his own family. He was a man of deep admiration whose spirit brought light to every room he entered, and his business success shaped future generations.

Ying was a relentlessly active member of our community who found joy from his involvement in several organizations including the Thomas Tang American Legion Post 50, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Compassionate and kind-hearted, Ying found pleasure in life's simplest gifts. From a dominoes game to a dim sum luncheon, he wove his infectious smile and kind nature into everything he did, bringing joy to all he met.

Arizona owes a debt of gratitude to Ying for his invaluable contributions to our great nation. In this spirit of remembrance, we join Ying's wife of 66 years, Catherine, and his family and loved ones to honor his legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

I thank Ying for his service, and Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT DR.  
MARY HINTON

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank President Dr. Mary Hinton for her service to the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Dr. Hinton served as President of the college since 2014 and will shortly assume a new role as the 13th President of Hollins University in Virginia.

Prior to her work at the College of St. Benedict, President Hinton was a visiting faculty member for the University of Pennsylvania and Vice President for Planning and Assessment at Mount St. Mary College.

President Hinton has built her career around leading and inspiring young women. During her time at St. Ben's, which enrolls 1,700 undergraduate women, she helped raise \$100 million in funding and implemented \$43 million in campus updates, providing our community with premier facilities for teaching, learning, and promoting women's leadership.

My staff and I have greatly enjoyed working with President Hinton over the past six years,

and we are grateful for her work on behalf of her students and our community.

We were especially grateful to have her as a panelist on my first ever Young Women's Leadership Program in 2015. She shared her time and insights with young women from Minnesota's Sixth District and inspired us all.

Congratulations to President Hinton on this exciting new role. I thank her for all she has done for our community. Minnesota will miss her.

HONORING RETIRED LIEUTENANT  
COMMANDER WILLIAM DC JONES

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor retired Lieutenant Commander William DC Jones of Temple, Texas as he celebrates his 100th birthday on December 11. In his century of living, LTC Jones has exemplified not only the best in service to his country, but to his community as well.

His fearless support of our country's interests abroad serves as a clear testament to his dedication to our great nation and to his commitment to serving others. During WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, LTC Jones bravely served as a pilot, aerial observer, and member of the Department of the Army Inspector General's Office. His work did not go unnoticed as he earned many awards and decorations for his patriotism including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and a Meritorious Service Medal.

After retiring in Temple, the very place he grew up, LTC Jones continued to service his country and community through the Temple Golden K Kiwanis Club, the Temple Community Concert Association, and civic organizations. His work speaks to the devoted and generous spirit of a man who puts the needs of others before those of himself.

I join LTC Jones' friends and family in applauding the work he has done and service he continues to provide. I wish him the happiest of birthdays and nothing but health and prosperity in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF WAYNE LEE

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne Lee as he leaves the city council of Millbrae after serving nine years. He also served as Mayor for two terms in 2013–2014 and 2018–2019. Wayne began public service in Millbrae by serving on the planning commission for six years.

Millbrae is a town of 23,000 located across the freeway from San Francisco International Airport. Its steep hillsides hold lush trees and capture the morning fog as it spills in from the Pacific Ocean. The city boasts outstanding schools that attract families from throughout the region. People also move to Millbrae to partake in youth sports and numerous annual

festivals. These new residents mix easily with longtime residents and both create a vibrant civic life.

Wayne Lee began public service in Millbrae as an adult, but he was no stranger to helping the public. At the age of 13, he joined the civil air patrol, an auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and ultimately rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. While living in the nearby community of Pacifica, he was appointed to the youth commission and worked hard to create the Pacifica Youth Center.

After outstanding work as a student at City College in San Francisco, Wayne graduated with a bachelor's in chemical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He then began his career as an environmental engineer in both the public and private sectors. His goal was to assist companies in the avoidance of environmental pollution. He was very successful and retired after 28 years in the field.

As a father to Nicholas, Wayne was very active in Millbrae schools. He is the founding President of the Millbrae Education Foundation and was President of the PTA and active on the school site council. He organized the Millbrae Dog Park committee that eventually led to the creation of a special place where dogs can bring their humans so that these humans can be relieved of pandemic-induced boredom. Numerous sightings of smiles peeking out from under masks confirm that humans have benefitted immensely from Wayne's work. He is also an active member of the Millbrae Lion's Club and helped to supervise the Leos, a youth affiliate.

As a city councilmember, Wayne's priorities include the promotion of the city's business climate and youth-oriented programs. He is also deeply involved in promoting the city's public works projects, and housing is a significant priority for Wayne. He sincerely believes the city should do more to create housing for all income groups.

Wayne's work influences our region via his positions on the Executive Boards of the Association of Bay Area Governments, Peninsula Clean Energy, and the Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus. He is also a mentor to future civic leaders.

Millbrae will lose one of its biggest boosters when Wayne Lee leaves public life. He is deeply committed to ensuring that his city is diverse and a welcoming community for young and old alike. When the time comes to select a mascot for Millbrae, I'd nominate Wayne's smile. It signifies everything that is good about the city and announces that friendship is just a moment away for anyone who wishes to make this community on the Peninsula a better place for all. We all wish Wayne Lee a wonderful future in this remarkable city next to San Francisco Bay. It has been an honor to serve with him.

HONORING MAYOR JOSEPH T.  
CALLINAN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mayor Joseph T. Callinan of

Rohnert Park in celebration of his twelve years serving on the Rohnert Park City Council.

Joseph Callinan was born in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, California and is a lifelong resident of the city. In 2008, he was elected to city council and has served three terms. Callinan first became mayor in 2013, and served as vice mayor in 2019, before his current appointment. Apart from serving his community as a member of the city council and as mayor, Mr. Callinan also owns a successful construction company that operates throughout Sonoma, Napa and Marin counties.

As mayor, Callinan supported investments to update city infrastructure. This included repaving the roads and a testament to Callinan's commitment to public safety, the construction of a new fire station. He helped foster a greater sense of community by voting to approve a new downtown for Rohnert Park, to create a vibrant public gathering place, and two new parks, Maurice Fredericks Park and Five Creek Park.

Most notably, Mayor Callinan addressed the increased demand for more affordable housing during his years in public service. Multiple housing projects have begun construction during his time in office, with many of them aimed at low-income families and seniors. The most recent of these are the WillowGlen Neighborhood and The Redwoods at University District. In addition, Callinan advocated for the continuation of homebuilding in Rohnert Park during the COVID-19 pandemic to help alleviate the ongoing housing crisis as many projects were halted mid-build.

Madam Speaker, Joseph T. Callinan has lived in Rohnert Park for 60 years. His love and dedication for his community is evident by his tenure on the city council and as mayor. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE LIVES OF ADORA  
PREVOST RAGSDALE AND  
GEORGE ROBINSON RAGSDALE

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the lives of Adora Prevost Ragsdale and George Robinson Ragsdale.

Dody, as her family lovingly called her, was born in Waynesville, North Carolina on May 31, 1939. The eldest of John Aaron and Adora Holtzclaw Prevost, she attended Waynesville High School and Sweet Briar College. She was elected President of her college class, and was an alumna of the Chi Omega Sorority where she also served as President. She graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Dody adored the Appalachian Mountains in her youth and loved them throughout her life.

Her husband, George Ragsdale, graduated with honors in 1954 from Georgetown Preparatory School and then entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated in 1958. An active student leader, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, the Order of the Golden Fleece, The Order of the Grail and was Chairman of the Men's Honor Council. He was elected Presi-

dent of the Senior Class and Permanent President of the Class of 1958.

Madam Speaker, George then went on to graduate from UNC Law School in 1961. He spent a year in Washington, D.C., as Assistant Chief Counsel of the United States Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights for the Chairman at the time, Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. It was in Washington where he met his wife "Dody" Prevost.

And on October 20, 1962 Dody and George married on what was described as a "brilliant October morning."

The couple moved back to North Carolina where George entered private practice in Raleigh. And upon the election of Governor Dan Moore, George was named Legal Counsel to the Governor. And then, in 1968, Governor Moore appointed him to the Bench as a Special Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina, then one of the youngest such Judges in the State's history.

Dody championed and pushed countless causes including a fine understanding of the Arts, serving as the Board President for the North Carolina Symphony, and being a founding member of the American Dance Festival. And in her tireless spirit, Dody held multiple positions in her community, including with the Rex Hospital Guild and serving as President of the Capital City Garden Club.

George went on to found his own firm, Ragsdale Liggett, with his good friend Frank Liggett in 1972. During his long legal career, George served on the Boards of Directors of a number of publicly traded companies.

Madam Speaker, George then went on to be elected to the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979 and then served as Chairman between 1984 and 1985.

Inspired by their deep Christian faith and devotion to God, Dody and George Ragsdale were founding members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Sadly, Dody Ragsdale passed away on June 19th earlier this year. And her loving husband George passed on August 12th. They will be missed by their friends, their family, and their community.

My deepest and warmest sympathies and condolences are with the entire Ragsdale Family in this difficult time.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER  
CYNTHIA MATHEWS

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia Mathews, the retiring City Councilmember and former Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz, California, for her commitment to serving the people of the central coast of California.

It is my honor to recognize her as she finishes her final term serving the City of Santa Cruz as the longest serving member of the City Council. Her service of 24 years has benefited countless residents of the City of Santa Cruz and is an achievement that few elected officials experience.

Councilmember Mathew's mark can be seen in the City of Santa Cruz's protection of its his-

toric buildings and architectural importance, the recovery of the Downtown after the Loma Prieta earthquake, and the protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. She has been a leader on the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee and led efforts to pass revenue measures supporting Santa Cruz City Schools, the Santa Cruz Public Library system and City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation programs.

The community of Santa Cruz has been well served by her dedication to neighborhoods, economic development, housing, social equity and social services, and public safety. Public service is a demanding commitment, and she has served with grace, intelligence and determination. Her service will certainly inspire future leaders on the Central Coast.

As she begins her retirement, I have no doubt that Cynthia will continue to serve her community. We, on the Central Coast, are grateful for her contributions to our community and celebrate her successful career.

HONORING THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE  
AND CELEBRATING OUR  
JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the alliance between the United States and Japan and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Japanese Americans across our country, especially in my home state of Hawaii.

Seventy-five years ago, the Second World War finally ended when Japanese and Allied representatives signed the Instrument of Surrender on the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, the storied battleship that now rests in Pearl Harbor in my district. Three generations hence, Japan has become a crucial ally, economic power and trading partner to the United States and built a dynamic democratic society and vibrant popular culture. Our two countries and peoples stand united as anchors of peace, prosperity and the liberal international order in the Indo-Pacific region.

On November 18, 2020, the House unanimously passed H. Res. 349, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, a resolution that I also proudly cosponsored. Amidst this COVID-19 pandemic, renewed great power competition and a world in flux, the alliance and friendship between the United States and Japan remains a pillar of stability. Whatever challenges lie ahead, I am confident that our two countries will stand together and overcome them.

The memory of World War II also evokes one of the most shameful periods of our history as a country: the mass internment of Japanese Americans. Through Executive Order 9066 and other orders, the federal government forcibly relocated and incarcerated about 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens, in concentration camps.

The year 2020 marks 40 years since the appointment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. That Commission's report, entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, affirmed what we already knew: that the mass internment of Japanese Americans was the product of racism and not driven by any actual national security risk. In 1988, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized and established restitution for the internment of Japanese Americans.

Yet from this dark period in our history emerged great acts of courage and patriotism that helped make our country a more perfect union. Just months after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to join the war effort to join their comrades who had served earlier in the Hawaii National Guard, leading to formation of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, later combined. Nicknamed the "Purple Heart Battalion," the 100th/442nd became the single-most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history. Thousands more Japanese Americans served in the all-Japanese American 552nd Field Artillery Battalion and Japanese American Unit of the Military Intelligence Service.

Last year, I had the honor of traveling to the town of Bruyères, France, liberated by the 100th/442nd in the fall of 1944 at terrible cost, to represent our Congress at the 75th anniversary of liberation. There, I was moved by the powerful memory of these Japanese American soldiers, which included my wife's uncle, PFC Sadao Hikida, their courage and ferocity in freeing this town from Nazi oppression and rescuing the "Lost Battalion" and the enduring friendships they built with the people of Bruyères.

In Bruyères, I also recounted the personal impact that two veterans of the 100th/442nd had on my own life and career. It was *Journey to Washington*, the memoir of Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, that first inspired me to consider a career in elected office. After graduating from college, I worked three years for Congressman (and later Senator) Spark Matsunaga, another veteran of the 100th/442nd, who has served as a lifetime role model for me and so many others.

The courage and patriotism of Japanese Americans also extended to the home front. Japanese American citizens fought against the injustice of Executive Order 9066 and challenged it in court, leading to the infamous *Korematsu v. United States* decision. That decision was only recently reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the decades since, Japanese Americans have accomplished so much and contributed so greatly to our country through their service and achievements in government, the military, science and technology, arts and culture, business and more. I especially recognize the Japanese Americans of Hawaii who help make our home state the wonderfully rich and diverse place it is.

I am proud to join my colleagues in this House in recognizing the U.S.-Japan alliance and commit myself to continued support for the historic friendship and amity between our peoples. And I am equally proud to represent and support the descendants of all those who

came to this country from Japan in search of a better life, retaining the best of the rich cultural heritage of their ancestral country in generations of contribution and achievement since.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS and I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

These remarkable and steadfast employees are an amazing asset for the House of Representatives. The work they accomplish is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents; and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many great and important things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the American public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below have provided 100 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anne Binsted, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Kenneth Burch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Philip Hamner, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cynthia Hibbs, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House set an example for their colleagues and raises the bar for the

employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

STEVE DOMINE: A CAREER OF SERVICE TO STEARNS COUNTY

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Domine, President of Minnesota Community Banking at Stearns Bank National Association. After 43 years in banking and 33 years at Stearns Bank, Steve announced his retirement in July.

Steve describes his career as having served nearly every position at the bank, starting as a teller and eventually being promoted to managing several community bank locations.

In his tenure with Stearns Bank, Steve has helped small businesses across our state grow and prosper.

I thank Steve and wish him good luck on his next chapter.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER GINA BELFORTE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rohnert Park City Councilmember Gina Belforte for more than a decade of service to our community. As we mark her retirement, it is important to recognize her contributions to the City of Rohnert Park and the greater North Bay.

Councilmember Belforte was first elected in 2008 and has served three terms with honor and integrity, including terms as mayor and vice mayor. Throughout her years in office, she has worked hard to stabilize the city budget while maintaining essential services, and has always strived to give a voice to the underrepresented. She has also been a regional leader as the Sonoma County appointee to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District and as a member of the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors. Through her passion and commitment, Councilmember Belforte has ensured a stronger, brighter future for Rohnert Park and our greater community.

Aside from her noteworthy record as a public servant, Councilmember Belforte is a well-regarded business leader. In recognition of her success in the face of barriers that exist for woman-owned enterprises, she was awarded the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010. Using her business acumen for charitable causes, she has also served with distinction as the President of both Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development and the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park—Cotati. Although she is retiring from public service, her impact on our community will continue.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Gina Belforte is an exceptional public servant, a

true friend, and has dedicated herself to principled service to the city and people of Rohnert Park. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANKING  
MEMBER GREG WALDEN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and colleague, Ranking Member GREG WALDEN, as he begins a new chapter in his life.

For two decades, GREG served a community that he loved with his whole heart. He saw his constituents as more than the people who entrusted him with this job, but as family and friends who needed their voices heard in Washington.

It wasn't always easy. Long weeks away from family never are. But GREG kept taking those six hour flights from coast to coast because he loved the work and he was committed to the causes that brought him here in the first place.

And as he rose through the Energy and Commerce Committee, he grew close to both me and my husband, John.

There have certainly been a fair share of spirited debates over policies that we are both passionate about. But the moments spent agreeing on legislation that was signed into law and impacts our constituents today are the memories I'll always cherish.

Though we will miss GREG in 2123 Rayburn, we are all excited for what his future holds. Hope to see my friend again soon.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUSTUS  
MURRAY AMMONS

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Justus Murray Ammons.

Jud Ammons grew up on a farm in Western North Carolina, where sharecropping and plowing gardens shaped what he called his "country boy" work ethic. At N.C. State, he dabbled in his first entrepreneurial pursuits, including selling books, starting a laundry pickup business and working as an engineer for the State of North Carolina, all on top of college classes. He also met his wife, JoEllen and they were married in 1957 in Monroe, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Jud and JoEllen spent their early married years traveling the world while Jud served in the U.S. Air Force and then worked as department head with CP&L. In the mid-1960s, the Ammons settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where Jud founded Ammons Construction Company. As a real estate developer, Jud built, owned and operated major subdivisions, day care facilities, golf course communities, industrial parks, retirement communities and shopping centers from the mountains to the coast. He sincerely cared

about what he was doing and about the people he was building for, no matter the project.

Jud was a savvy businessman, although he claimed it was "common sense." Encouraged by seniors in his church Jud developed Springmoor Retirement Community in North Raleigh. The community is the cornerstone of Greystone and pioneered the concept of a planned urban development incorporating amenities that allow residents to live, work, play, worship and go to school in a cohesive community. In 2000, he wrote a book named for his life motto, "Don't Wish You Had, Be Glad You Did."

Decades ago, Jud coached basketball, soccer and football; more recently, he kept a list of grandchildren's sports and activities schedules in his back pocket, filling nights and weekends to the brim to make it to as many games, recitals and performances as possible.

Always driven by the desire to meet the needs of the people of Raleigh, Jud served in leadership on the Wake County Planning Commission, Raleigh Greenway Commission, Raleigh City Task Force and Raleigh Bicentennial Commission. He was president and board member of the Raleigh-Wake County Home Builders Association and director of the National Association of Home Builders. In 2011, he was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame. He and JoEllen helped found Greystone Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and trustee. He served on several legislative study commissions, as a member of the Raleigh volunteer fire department and as a trustee of Mars Hill College in his hometown. Jud also loved raising champion beagles and was inducted into the Brace Beagling Hall of Fame.

Jud was quick to tell a joke and a story, usually using his own dictionary of "Jud-isms." A respected developer and businessman, he believed in dreaming big, working hard, and taking risks. But most of all, he loved God and his family, including his late wife, JoEllen, their four children and their 13 grandchildren.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, Jud Ammons passed away this year on October 18, 2020. He was 85 years old. He will be missed by his friends, neighbors, family, and the entire community.

IN HONOR OF LARRY MOODY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Moody as he concludes his service on the city council of East Palo Alto, and after 14 years of service to the community as both a trustee of the school district and councilmember.

Larry grew up in Hartford, Connecticut, and was the youngest of eight children. He was an enterprising young man rising early to deliver the Hartford Courant newspaper and later becoming student body president at his high school in both his junior and senior years. He lettered in three sports and captained the New England Championship Basketball Team. He matriculated to Trinity College, with a major in political science, and later joined the U.S. Air Force.

In 1993, he came to East Palo Alto and immersed himself in ministry and youth sports.

By 2006, as an established leader, he ran for the school board and was elected. He and other trustees immediately concluded that progress evaluations would include everyone, not just the students. That year, the district had the highest gain in achievement scores in its history. Larry also brought Menlo Park Presbyterian Church into the Ravenswood Education Foundation and contributions soared.

In 2012, he ran for the city council. The city is a diverse community in the heart of Silicon Valley filled with an extremely hard-working population. Median household income is about 50 percent of San Mateo County's. The city's tax base supports a police department, community development, public works and other activities but there is no formal parks and recreation department. Violence within the community needed to be curbed. Larry wanted his city to offer the kinds of safety and services routinely provided to residents of surrounding communities. Developing the tax base was critical.

To overcome a development moratorium, Councilman Moody spearheaded a critical effort to obtain water from two neighboring communities. To curb violence, he supported, among many efforts, community-based organizations to reach out to areas in town that were hotspots, a domestic violence program at the police department, and increasing the number and pay of the city's hard-pressed police force. Crime trended sharply downward. As the city became safer, major employers noticed. For example, Amazon established a large facility in the community, annually contributing nearly \$500,000 in property taxes to the city's general fund. Steady increases in all tax revenues meant that a dream of Larry's, summer youth programs, commenced. Youth development programs, including those through former President Obama's My Brother's Keeper program, are a high priority for Larry.

Housing remains a major challenge. As a councilmember, Larry supported the establishment of the local homeless shelter, Project WeHope, the creation of a recreational vehicle parking program, the development of hundreds of new units on city-owned lands and at the site of existing affordable housing. Some of these projects happened in part because he and his council colleagues insisted that Facebook contribute \$20 million to meet the community's needs.

When he learned that countywide money was available for senior housing, Larry led the city in securing those funds as a down payment on a project along University Avenue which was decades in the making. When \$80,000 was identified for housing renovation purposes, Larry and a local non-profit leader developed a program of weatherization of apartments for low-income residents.

As he often says, capital improvements are not sexy, but they are needed. While on the council, he strongly supported the creation of a pedestrian/bike bridge over Highway 101, linking west side residents to the city's grocery and shopping areas on the east side. New storm water pipes down Bay Road and new wells for drinking water began during his council service.

Larry Moody led other council members regionally as the President of the Peninsula Chapter of the League of California Cities, and served on the statewide organization's committee on parks and recreation. At my request,

he graciously agreed to serve on a regional body that made important recommendations to the FAA regarding intrusive noise impacts on East Palo Alto and surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, we know Larry Moody as a coach, community leader, elected leader, and booster of all things East Palo Alto but, ultimately, we know him as a man with unbounded faith in the potential of human beings. Give this man a single ray of hope for the future and he produces a blinding day of possibilities.

As he steps down from the city council, his wife Lisa, their four sons Larry Jr., Tyler, Isiah and Cameron, will once again have Larry home each night. We thank them for their patience as he served, but their gain is our loss. Let us salute Larry Moody for his service to us all. He will long be remembered as the man who led with a smile and an enormous heart.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF URIEL PADGETT

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Uriel Burton Padgett. As a fellow service member, I am grateful for Mr. Padgett's dedication to family, state, and country.

Uriel Padgett was born October 7, 1934 in Magee, MS to Luke and Novice Kennedy. He was married to Mattie Lee Middleton Padgett for 65 years and together the two had two children, five grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

In March of 1952, Uriel joined the Mississippi National Guard. He served in many positions throughout his career and served as a founding member of the Special Forces Unit in the Mississippi Guard. His first NCOS class was in Mississippi and he went on to instruct the course. Uriel deeply enjoyed his time at Camp Shelby before retiring in 1989 as the Assistant United States Property and Fiscal Officer and was later promoted to Brigadier General.

Uriel spent his retirement travelling with his wife, learning woodworking, and attending arts and crafts shows. He was an active member of the Exchange Club of West Jackson, Rankin County Civitan Club, Oak Hill Lodge, and the American Legion. He was a dedicated charter member of Brandon Baptist Church. Uriel loved music and spending time outdoors. He played many instruments and could be found in his garden or riding his tractor.

Mr. Padgett is survived by his wife, Mattie Lee Middleton Padgett; children, Steve and Deborah; grandchildren, Greg, Alisha, Jana, and Ashley; and ten great-grandchildren.

Uriel Padgett was a dedicated husband and father, a servant to his state, and a man of faith. He will be deeply missed by all who had the opportunity to know and love him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ACT

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Transatlantic Telecommunications Security Act. I am grateful to my colleague ADAM KINZINGER of Illinois for his partnership in co-leading this critically needed piece of legislation.

The United States and our allies face down increased threats from global actors like a rising China and belligerent Russia that seek to export their malign influence and undermine democratic institutions.

China seeks to compromise allied critical telecommunications infrastructure by using statelinked companies like Huawei and ZTE to unfairly induce our allies to procure insecure fifth generation telecommunications equipment and services.

Bipartisan current and former U.S. officials and civil society members have recognized the threat of malign influence over critical telecommunications networks. 5G networks will serve as the backbone of artificial intelligence platforms with immense national security and domestic economic implications. Secure telecommunications are also critical for military interoperability with our European allies at a time when NATO coordination is needed now more than ever.

Given these critical national security needs, the United States must provide our allies alternatives to Chinese financing and provide increased diplomatic support to our allies to ensure secure telecommunications lines.

This legislation would authorize the U.S. Development Finance Corporation to provide financing for cross-border 5G telecommunications infrastructure development to our allies. This financing is key to remove risky and threatening equipment and replace it with secure equipment. The legislation seeks to increase resilience in countries in the region whose infrastructure deficit from the Soviet-era makes them especially vulnerable to malign Chinese influence, including among nations in the Three Seas Initiative.

Additionally, this bill directs the Secretary of State and other relevant agency heads to prioritize diplomacy and project support with European allies and partners to develop 5G markets that are inclusive, transparent, economically viable, socially sustainable, and compliant with international law. Finally, this legislation ensures the United States is leading with our European allies to develop international 5G standards that favor democratic institutions, not further authoritarianism spread by China and Russia.

Following unanimous House passage of H. Res. 672 supporting the Three Seas Initiative and the enactment of the bipartisan European Energy Security and Diversification Act, this bill is the next critically needed step for Congress to secure our transatlantic allies and partners from malign influence.

I urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

HONORING MAYOR ROY SWEARINGEN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Roy Swearingen, and to celebrate his over 16 years of public service to the City of Pinole.

Mayor Swearingen has been a resident of Pinole for over 40 years. He began his career in construction and eventually owned his own small business. He is a dedicated public servant, having spent 16 years on the Pinole City Council, leading the Council as Mayor for five of those years. He has also served on the Pinole Chamber of Commerce for six years, including two years as president.

Drawing upon his many years in business, Mayor Swearingen has helped guide the City of Pinole through many challenges and hardships. His leadership during the 2008 recession, including steering the effort to create a balanced budget, was vital to the City of Pinole's economic recovery. Mayor Swearingen's business acumen was indispensable in guiding the recent upgrade to the Pinole/Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant, which will help keep our oceans clean and will benefit the community for generations to come.

Mayor Swearingen's dedication to his community extends beyond the roles that he has served in office. He is a highly involved member of the Pinole Rotary Club and the West Contra Costa Police Activities League, having served as president of both organizations. Though he is retiring from the City Council, Mayor Swearingen will continue to serve his community as the Treasurer of the City of Pinole. His leadership and expertise will surely be an asset in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Roy Swearingen's integrity and continued dedication to public service is an inspiration to us all. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

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RECOGNIZING 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2020*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow Congressional Black Caucus members for coming together this evening to recognize and acknowledge the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, 1865 was certainly a turning point in the history of our nation, with the end of the Civil War and the assassination of one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

But the ideal over which the Civil War was fought and President Lincoln died was not fulfilled until late in that year—155 years ago yesterday, in fact.

When Georgia became the 27th state to ratify the 13th Amendment, on December 6, 1865, our country formally put an end to the practice of chattel slavery in this country.

In the following years, Congress and the states added to the Reconstruction Era Civil Rights Amendments, with the 14th Amendment in 1868, providing for equal protection and due process, and the 15th Amendment in 1870, guaranteeing the right to vote regardless of race.

These constitutional amendments were absolutely critical in our pursuit of a more perfect union where all men, and women, are created equal.

In the first four-score-and-9 years of our Republic, slavery was allowed and, indeed, enshrined in our Constitution.

While that changed with the 13th Amendment, over the last 155 years, we have still had to struggle for true equality.

The 13th Amendment may have ended slavery, but it did not stop the Black Codes or Jim Crow.

The 14th Amendment promised equal protection, but it didn't prevent 100 years of segregation.

The 15th Amendment says that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged, but it hasn't kept tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people of color from being disenfranchised at the hands of voter suppression tactics.

That is why I think it is so important that we do things like this—come together to talk about our history and the steps we need to take to complete the work.

Despite the progress over the years, we have not yet solved the problem of systemic racism.

We have work yet to do to make sure that a child's future isn't determined by her zip code; to overcome disparities in our health care system that have been exacerbated by a global pandemic; to prevent innocent Black men from being killed in the street.

As we approach another milestone—the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Congressional Black Caucus—I am proud to join with my colleagues in the CBC to do that hard work, and to finally ratify the 13th Amendment, not just in law, but in truth.

RECOGNIZING 2020 TRUMAN  
SCHOLAR VALERIE DOZE

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valerie Doze, a student at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph on receiving the Truman Scholarship.

The Truman Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 to honor President Harry S. Truman's legacy of extraordinary public service. The Truman Scholarship serves as a living monument to that legacy.

Each year, a diverse group of scholars receive \$30,000 to pursue graduate studies and are granted priority placement at our nation's top universities, as well as internships within the federal government.

Valerie is one of 62 in the 2020 class of Truman Scholars, having distinguished herself in a pool of nearly 800 candidates nominated by 316 colleges and universities across the country. Valerie will serve as the North Dakota Truman Scholar.

Congratulations to Valerie on this incredible honor, and we look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNER OF  
THE 2020 CONGRESSIONAL APP  
CHALLENGE IN NEW HAMP-  
SHIRE'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT, JAMIE O'KEEFE

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize high school junior Jamie O'Keefe as the winner of the 2020 Congressional App Challenge in New Hampshire's First Congressional District.

Using JavaScript and C Sharp, Jamie created "Augmentia," a physics-based augmented reality app where users can test the structural and design viability of a variety of objects: anything from a piece of furniture to a 3-D model of a skull. "Augmentia" was selected for its practicality, creativity, and versatility across all its functions.

Jamie is a student at Exeter High School in Exeter, New Hampshire and has been coding since he was in the fifth grade. Upon graduating high school, he intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science and has expressed particular interest in artificial intelligence and machine learning. My office is proud to support continued investments in STEM education so that all Granite Staters can have the opportunity to explore STEM and computer science.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Jamie on his terrific achievement. I am proud to showcase his work as a phenomenal product of STEM education in our district and wish him all my best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
RUSSELL CAPPS

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of James Russell Capps.

Russell Capps was born in Raleigh, North Carolina on February 26, 1931. He attended Murphy Elementary School and Hugh Morson High School in the Oakwood neighborhood of Raleigh. He graduated from the Radio/Television Institute of Chicago and then from Wake Forest University in 1956 with a degree in Sociology.

During the 1970s, Russell worked a position in radio and later television with WRAL News in Raleigh. Capps then went on to the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for three years and served as a volunteer pastor at a Baptist church.

Madam Speaker, in the 1960s he attended the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for a number of studies in local government administration and fire service. In 1968, he served as the first Wake County Planning Director and later as the first director of Wake County Emergency Management and founded the Wake County Emergency Medical Services.

Russell was then elected to the North Carolina State House of Representatives in 1994 and he served 6 terms in that body.

For 22 years, Russell also served as President of the Tax Payers Association. He was a member of the Christian Action League of North Carolina for 40 years and he spent eighteen years as a department head in Wake County Government. Russell was also Fire Marshall of Wake County for seventeen years. He was a planner in the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. He served as Wake County's first Planning Director who helped develop and prepare the original Wake County Comprehensive Development Plan.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, Russell Capps passed away this year on October 6, 2020. He was 89 years old. He will be missed by his friends, neighbors, family, and the entire community.

TRIBUTE TO MARY COLLINS

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Collins who, after 22 years is retiring as chair of the Huntington Town Democratic Committee. Over the years, I have been fortunate to know Mary both as a friend and an ally and remember the gracious welcome she gave me when I opened my flagship Congressional office in the Village of Huntington. As a staff person to former members of Congress Gary Ackerman and Steve Israel, Mary spent many years advocating for the constituents of New York's Third Congressional District. She is admired by many and I join with them in wishing her the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her life.

I include in the RECORD the following tribute to Mary that was prepared by the Huntington Town Democratic Committee:

On the Occasion of the Retirement of Mary Collins as the Chairwoman of the Huntington Town Democratic Committee, celebrating her 22nd anniversary as our beloved chair, we honor Mary for her excellence and service to the Huntington Community. We hereby recognize and acknowledge her tenure in office by sharing some of her biography and contributions.

Mary has been a resident of the Town of Huntington since 1950. She moved here from East Hampton as a child at the age of 8 when her Father became the caretaker of the Marshall Field Estate (now Caumsett State Park) where he was in charge of the stable of horses.

Her family ties to East Hampton connected her to Eleanor's Legacy by her relationship with Judith Hope who was the East Hampton Town Supervisor. Judith Started Eleanor's Legacy. Mary brought Eleanor's legacy to Huntington by appointing Sherry Pavone as head of the Woman's Initiative. HTDC has supported Eleanor's Legacy's goal of supporting women candidates throughout NY.

Mary was a teacher by profession. She spent her career wholly within Syosset High School District. Mary's area of expertise in teaching was Global studies. However, she became very interested in local politics on Long Island after observing her mother's long service as a Board of Elections volunteer, registering voters and working through election times as far back as the 1950's.

Huntington at that time was a quasi-rural area with much farmland.

Many Huntingtonians wanted to keep the character and nature of Huntington as it had

been before WWII. Huntington experienced rapid suburbanization with the development of Dix Hills/Melville, community groups such as House Beautiful and the development of the 110 Corridor. However, these changes came and our leaders had to wrestle with the issues surrounding this development.

Early on, Mary was particularly interested in the corruption felt throughout Long Island in the late 1950's. She fondly remembers when Robert Flynn, attorney and longtime Huntington Democratic leader, joined with likeminded Republicans to form The Fusion Economy Party designed to combat such corruption with the goal to defeat institutional corruption. There were Democrats and Republicans that ran on that line.

Mary recalled a time when Committee people were recruited, friend to friend, neighbor to neighbor. Her own mentor into the position as Chair was Eunice Titcomb. Eunice taught Mary the day-to-day workings of the committee.

Mary became more active in Huntington Democrats with her husband, the late Dick Tretler. They met Annie and Matt Berger around 1979 during Frank Grimes' tenure as HTDC Chair and they all campaigned actively for Jane Devine's successful run for County Legislature. In fact, she recalled that the reason she became a Notary Public was when Jane Devine was first running for office in order to carry Jane's petitions. In those days you could not carry a petition outside your district unless you were a Notary Public.

Annie Berger shares what she believes to be key to Mary's success: her listening skills. She listened, she heard people, even if she would not commit to their position. This was echoed by every elected Democratic official and leader past and present.

We Recognize that under Mary Collin's leadership, Huntington Democrats maintain a strong presence in Huntington. She made it a time to be proud to be a Democrat in Huntington and support our neighbors and friends in our community. Under Mary's leadership, Huntington held the majority in the town for 18 years.

Her integrity was always high and she put the Committee first.

Frank Grimes, HTDC long time Chair asked Mary to be Vice Chair and she readily accepted helping to bring HTDC into the 21st century. Mary was the Vice Chair of Huntington Town Democratic Committee for 6 years. In 1998 she became the Chair holding that position until 2020 when she became Vice Chair for Western Suffolk of the Suffolk County Democratic Committee. She has always enjoyed reaching out to people, being available to provide the best advice and assistance to every candidate, every Committee person, every constituent inquiry.

Frank Petrone, our long time Town Supervisor and now Committee Chair always found Mary welcoming, even though he was a Republican at the beginning of his tenure as Town Supervisor. When Frank changed his own party affiliation, Mary continued to provide him with an orientation to our Committee and paved the way for his acceptance to the Committee. "She was, as ever, always gracious."

Mary worked for a long time as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Gary Ackerman whose district stretched from Queens to Smithtown, dealing with constituent issues, becoming well versed in local issues affecting Huntington.

Former Congressman Steve Israel recalls that he met Mary when he moved to Huntington in the 1990's. He recalls learning about her from his friend, Congressman Bob Mrazek. Her knowledge of Huntington politics, as Congressman Israel remembers, was a reason that he asked Mary to join him

when he was first elected to Congress. Israel remembers that he was always amazed by her dedication to her neighbors, her insistence that we were in politics not for power but to help those without it and her passion for improving communities. Congressman Israel is reminded, upon returning from Washington, walking into his local office feeling uplifted seeing Mary at the front desk helping constituents with their everyday problems.

As Chair, Mary not only kept up the day-to-day operations, she nurtured us all with her amazing Home baked goodies. If you haven't tried her famous Irish Soda Bread, you are really missing out. Anyone coming to the office for GOTV work has enjoyed the extra benefit of sharing in a good cup of coffee or tea and a delicious homebaked treat made with love.

Ever the quintessential politico, Mary has always been able to straddle being essentially apolitical in a very political position. The interaction with people, trying to improve things for all Huntingtonians has always been her goal. And in her own words:

"Politics is the most fun people can have legally."

#### HONORING VICE MAYOR JAKE MACKENZIE

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vice Mayor Jake Mackenzie, and to celebrate his retirement from the Rohnert Park City Council after 24 years of storied service.

Vice Mayor Mackenzie is an outstanding public servant, a committed environmentalist, and a tireless advocate for the Rohnert Park community. After earning his PhD in pesticide research in 1970, he spent three decades working as a pesticide regulator for both the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency. He was first elected to the Rohnert Park City Council in 1996, running on a platform of natural land preservation in the city. He has served 24 years on the council, including 5 terms as Mayor.

Throughout his time on the City Council, Vice Mayor Mackenzie has been a regional leader on environmental preservation and transportation issues. His environmental expertise has been instrumental in creating long-term sustainable growth in Sonoma County. While leading the North Coast Resource Partnership, Vice Mayor Mackenzie secured over \$65 million in funding to protect Northern California open spaces for future generations. He has been a fierce advocate of affordable housing and public transportation, serving on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for 12 years, and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority for 20 years. He played a vital role in the development of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit passenger train, an extremely important service that will benefit the entire region for years to come.

Madam Speaker, Vice Mayor Jake Mackenzie is an exceptional public servant with a deep dedication to his community. He exemplifies the integrity we should expect from our leaders, and he has undoubtedly had a significant and lasting impact on the City of Rohnert Park. I am proud to call him a friend. It is

therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 7, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 512 and S. 461.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TOM CARROLL

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and offer gratitude to Mr. Tom Carroll. The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is losing a valuable member of the Capitol Hill community with his forthcoming resignation on December 11, 2020. Tom has accepted an amazing opportunity to lead facility operations at Columbia University in New York City, and we wish him the best in his new endeavor.

An engineer by trade and a respected U.S. Air Force veteran, Tom has been an indispensable member of the Architect of the Capitol's team since joining in 2009. He came on board first as Deputy Superintendent for House Office Buildings and quickly moved up to become the Chief Financial Officer responsible for ensuring sound financial stewardship and providing value-added analysis to give insight into the financial implications of program decisions. Tom was again promoted to Assistant to the Architect for Operations and Services in 2018, and he had the honor of serving as the Acting Architect of the Capitol from August 2019 to January 2020. Tom's due diligence and leadership ensured hundreds of projects across the Capitol campus were delivered on-time, on-budget and with high quality.

Tom's hard work and contributions to Capitol Hill will be greatly missed. Congress' loss is Columbia's gain.

#### HONORING CATHY HUGHES

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Cathy Hughes on her 40 years as the leader of Urban One, now America's largest Black broadcast network.

Cathy Hughes, the founder and chairperson of Urban One, has dedicated her career to amplifying the voices of Black people and their perspectives through the airwaves. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, and known to have hosted "radio shows" in her bathroom as a child, Hughes had her sights on success from day

one. Throughout her career, her piercing optimism and resilience cut through obstacles of discrimination and discouragement, clearing a path to where she now stands as one of our country's wealthiest self-made African-American women.

Hughes, who became a mother at the age of 16, has recalled taking her son to classes and, later on in her career, having him sleep in a sleeping bag in her office when she had to work late. Growing up among a family of entrepreneurs, as Hughes did, she was no stranger to hard work, business jargon and long hours. Her father was the first African-American to earn an accounting degree from Creighton University. Her mother played trombone.

In 1971, Hughes came to the District of Columbia to work at Howard University's School of Communications, and she went on to become a General Sales Manager for the University's radio station, WHUR-FM. On her arrival in the District, Hughes wrote to her mother, "My eyes were tired at the end of the day, staring at the greatness of Black people doing so many things."

In the late 1970s, Hughes started her own radio station, once known as Radio One, now Urban One. During her career she endured racism and sexism, but these were no match for her electric optimism. After seven years, the radio station became profitable and continued to grow. In 1999, at the recommendation of her son, who had received his MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Cathy Hughes became the first African-American woman to chair a publicly held corporation, following the sale of more than seven million shares of common stock to the public.

She has received numerous awards, including being selected for the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2019, the Woman of the Year Award by 100 Black Men of America in 2018, the Ida B. Wells Living Legacy Award in 2011 and the Essence Women Shaping the World Award in 2008. She was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University was named for her in 2016.

I relish this opportunity to recognize and honor the work of Cathy Hughes. Her resilience, optimism and determination are true guiding lights through these difficult times. She has mentored countless women and her entrepreneurial energy has touched many, both in D.C. and across the nation.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Cathy Hughes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Urban One.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2981, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020. I was also proud to cosponsor the House companion to this bill—H.R. 2406—introduced by my colleagues, Representatives ED CASE of Hawaii, DON YOUNG of Alaska, and JARED HUFFMAN of California.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) operates the agency's highly specialized international fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft. They conduct oceanographic and atmospheric research and include the Hurricane Hunter aviators, who provide the National Weather Service with the necessary data for their storm forecasts and warnings.

In Puerto Rico, we know how important this work is. For instance, before Hurricane Maria even departed our waters in September 2017, the NOAA Corps-led *NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson* became the first federal vessel on scene in relief efforts. Over the next 20 days, that ship and crew worked uninterrupted, around-the-clock shifts throughout Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, eventually clearing eighteen individual port facilities in thirteen areas. Seven of them were in Puerto Rico alone.

That is why I support passage of S. 2981, which would give NOAA Corps the authorities it needs to continue as an effective service for our nation. The bill would provide its officers employment rights in line with other uniformed services, authorize education loan repayment programs for NOAA Corps officers and tuition support for prospective officers, and give NOAA updated authorities to manage the size and composition of the Corps, among other provisions.

I look forward to continuing supporting the men and women of the NOAA Corps.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONNIE S. WILLIAMS

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Ronnie S. Williams.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams was especially proud of his service to his country. He graduated from Garner High School in 1966, attended Wake Community College then served in U.S. Army. He was deployed to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Williams was a member of American Legion Post 232 and Garner VFW Post 10225.

In addition to his military service, Williams was a former first responder. He was a volunteer both in the Garner Volunteer Fire Department and in Garner EMS, serving as chief of the latter from 1980 to 1983.

Madam Speaker, Ronnie Williams served on the Board of Aldermen for Garner, North Carolina for 20 years before being elected Mayor of Garner, and serving in that role between 2005 until December of last year.

Under Ronnie's nearly three decades of public service, Garner, North Carolina prospered now includes over 30,000 residents outside of Raleigh. He also assumed roles of regional and statewide leadership during his ten-

ure as mayor. He served as chair of the Wake County Mayors Association from 2007 to 2009 and was selected to be an at-large member of the N.C. League of Municipalities' Board of Directors.

Sadly, former Garner Mayor Ronnie S. Williams passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the age of 72.

His legacy as a devoted and dedicated public servant will be missed by all of those who knew him.

IN HONOR OF LAURA DAVIS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laura Davis upon her retirement from the San Bruno City Council after three years of service. Serving on the council of a small city is never easy, but doing so during a global pandemic not seen in a century is almost unimaginable. Yet, Laura and her colleagues used and created tools and mechanisms that made San Bruno residents as safe and supported as possible. Laura's hard work and dedication are a testament to her commitment to her community.

While on the council, Laura served on the Utilities Committee, the Traffic Safety & Parking Commission, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Airport Land Use Committee, the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. These complex issues require a lot of knowledge, research and consideration and Laura always took the time to do her homework. In her day job, Laura is the Customer Relations Manager at California Water Service company where she has worked for 20 years. She brought extensive expertise on water issues to the council.

Laura also served on the Recreation and Aquatics Center Advisory Committee which is tasked with supporting the construction of a new Recreation and Aquatics Center in San Bruno City Park. This project will be a tangible symbol of the community spirit of San Bruno residents. After the fatal and devastating explosion of a Pacific Gas & Electric Company gas pipeline in 2010, the community voted on how to best spend a restitution settlement with PG&E of \$70 million. It was agreed that all residents of San Bruno should benefit from the settlement and a new pool was voted the highest priority. It is that spirit of resilience and solidarity that defines San Bruno's character.

Laura also isn't a newcomer to public service. Prior to the council, she served on the San Bruno Crime Prevention Committee and on the Parks & Recreation Commission. She served on the committee that planned the spectacular Centennial celebration of San Bruno in 2014, three years before being elected to the council. An avid outdoors and sports enthusiast, she has coached numerous softball, basketball and soccer teams in San Bruno. She founded "Friends Helping Friends" through St. Robert's Parish and raised \$100,000 to help those in need of medical treatment with their expenses. After Laura survived her own battle with cancer, she served as a committee member of a Relay for Life fundraiser and she organized a community

Superhero Day for two boys fighting cancer. It is obvious from these activities that Laura Davis deeply cares about others and has a profound desire to improve their lives. St. Robert's Church named her Woman of the Year.

Laura was born in San Francisco but raised in San Bruno. She worked in the family business, Roma Delicatessen, which she credits with teaching her the importance of hard work, community and giving back. Laura graduated from Capuchino High School and then attended the College of San Mateo and San Francisco State University. Before working for Cal Water, she was the General Manager for Palace Press International for 10 years. Laura has been married to her husband Jim Davis for 29 years. They have two children, Ryan and Sarah.

Madam Speaker please join me in honoring Laura Davis for her service to San Bruno residents. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and caring woman as a community leader who will undoubtedly stay active and engaged.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
RADIO

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the very first commercial radio broadcast. From delivering lifesaving information during emergencies to playing the music, sports, and news that keep us connected, our communities rely on broadcast radio.

As co-chair of the Congressional Broadcasters Caucus and a former radio show host, I know firsthand the power of local radio to connect, inform, and inspire all of us.

The same wireless technology that brought us the results of the Harding-Cox presidential election in 1920 continues to keep us informed with critical information about the current outbreak, weather emergencies, and local news today.

This outbreak has impacted all Americans in one way or another, and local radio stations continue to provide listeners with a valuable connection. Broadcasters are also leading the charge to collect donations for relief funds which support Americans in their time of need.

I want to thank the thousands of local radio stations across the nation providing this invaluable service. I thank them for their dedication to radio, which will keep this critical information service available to all Americans for the next 100 years.

HONORING COUNCILMAN PETER  
MURRAY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Peter Murray, and to celebrate his 31 years of public service to the City of Pinole.

Councilman Murray's dedication to his community is lifelong and enduring. His service to the City of Pinole began in 1989 when he joined the Pinole Planning Commission. In 1992, he was elected to the Pinole City Council, and went on to serve for seven terms, including as Mayor of Pinole for seven separate years.

During his 28 years on the City Council, Councilman Murray has earned the respect and appreciation of the public, and has consistently focused on bettering his community. His economic leadership was instrumental in bringing new businesses to the area, such as by revitalizing the Pinole Valley Shopping Center. Councilman Murray has also worked hard to improve public safety through growing Pinole's Neighborhood Watch program and pursuing community-oriented policing practices. He played an important role in upgrading the Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant, which will continue to protect our natural resources for decades to come.

Councilman Murray's leadership in his community goes beyond his duties as a City

Councilman. Since 1997, he has coached local Little League and Youth Soccer teams and inspired countless young people with his integrity and dedication. He has also coordinated the Annual Pinole Coastal Cleanup for many years, protecting our coastlines from pollution.

Madam Speaker, Councilman Peter Murray is an outstanding public servant who has dedicated his life to serving his community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CORONAVIRUS AID

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate passage of coronavirus relief for the American people. Members of Congress must not return home to their districts before a coronavirus package has been agreed upon and passed.

The House passed the Heroes Act in the Spring, over six months ago, extending additional relief to American families struggling to put food on the table, pay their rent, keep their businesses afloat, and pay their student loans.

The do nothing Republicans in the Senate have not only refused to vote on the Heroes Act, but they have refused to even put up a viable alternative that their members can accept. It's shameful the Republican Majority in the Senate would rather confirm President Trump's lame-duck political appointees and judges than offer even a modest measure of coronavirus support to American workers and struggling families. Meanwhile, President Trump has provided zero leadership.

Madam Speaker, the coronavirus is infecting more people now than at any other time in the last year. We stand on the face of a precipice that will leave tens of thousands more Americans dead. We must pass coronavirus aid before the end of this week.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7247–S7287*

**Measures Introduced:** Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4972–4982, S. Res. 796–797, and S. Con. Res. 51. **Pages S7280–81**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 3152, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–304)

S. 4393, to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4511, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7280**

#### Measures Passed:

**Honoring the Life and Achievements of Former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 797, honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing. **Page S7271**

**Enrollment Correction:** Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 51, correcting the enrollment of S. 1869. **Page S7285**

**Motor Carrier Safety Grant Relief Act:** Senate passed S. 3729, to provide relief for the recipients of financial assistance awards from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. **Page S7285**

**Telework for U.S. Innovation Act:** Senate passed S. 4138, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a telework travel expenses program. **Pages S7285–86**

**State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 4460, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive certain eligibility requirements for a veteran to receive per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7286**

**Safeguarding Therapeutics Act:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7286**

Portman (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2694, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7286**

**PARENTS Act:** Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 3325, to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to use incentive payments available under the child support enforcement program to improve parent-child relationships, increase child support collections, and improve outcomes for children by supporting parenting time agreements for non-custodial parents in uncontested agreements, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7287**

#### House Messages:

**Secure Federal LEASEs Act:** Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1869, to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency. **Page S7285**

**Foreign Military Sales Joint Resolutions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following the disposition of the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, Senate resume legislative session, and it be in order for Senator Menendez, or his designee, to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United

Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services, and S.J. Res. 78, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; and if either motion is made, there be up to four hours of debate concurrently on the motions, equally divided between the proponents and the opponents of the joint resolutions, with Senator Menendez controlling 15 minutes of the proponents time immediately prior to the first vote; and upon the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on the motions to discharge the joint resolutions, in the order listed. **Page S7287**

**Retiring Members Tributes—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the Congressional Record in tribute to retiring Members of the 116th Congress, and that Members have until Friday, December 18, 2020, to submit such tributes. **Page S7287**

**Dickerson, Broussard, and Cooksey Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motions with respect to the nominations of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, be withdrawn; and that at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, in the order which cloture was filed. **Page S7287**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Allen Dickerson at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. **Page S7287**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 256), Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S7265, S7287**

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 257), Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 255), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7249–57, S7287**

**Nomination Received:** Senate received the following nomination:

Irving Bailey, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years. **Page S7287**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S7278**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S7278**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Pages S7278–79**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S7279–80**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S7281–82**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S7282–84**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S7277**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Page S7284**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S7284–85**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S7285**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—257) **Pages S7257, S7265**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former Senator for the State of Maryland, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 797, at 7:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7287.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### COAST GUARD CAPABILITIES IN THE ARCTIC

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine United States Coast Guard capabilities for safeguarding national interests and promoting economic security in the Arctic, after receiving testimony from Admiral Charles W. Ray, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Jennifer Francis, Woodwell Climate Research Center, Falmouth, Massachusetts; Major General Randy A. Kee, USAF (Ret.), University of Alaska Arctic Domain Awareness Center, Eagle River; and Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association, Juneau, Alaska.

### EARLY OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR COVID-19

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine early outpatient treatment as an essential part of a

COVID-19 solution, after receiving testimony from Jane M. Orient, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Tucson, Arizona; Pierre Kory, St. Luke's Aurora Medical Center, Madison, Wisconsin, on behalf of the Front-Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance; Jean-Jacques Rajter, Pulmonary and Sleep

Consultants of Florida, Fort Lauderdale; Ramin Oskoui, Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Jay Bhattacharya, Stanford University, Stanford, California; and Armand Balboni, Appili Therapeutics Inc., Waterford, Virginia.

## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 13 public bills, H.R. 8893–8905; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1251–1252, were introduced. **Pages H7045–46**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H7046–47**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2477, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–621, Part 1);

H.R. 3361, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–622);

H.R. 1426, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–623);

H. Res. 549, reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity (H. Rept. 116–624);

H.R. 5541, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–625, Part 1);

H.R. 5758, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make technical corrections to the energy conservation standard for ceiling fans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–626);

H.R. 307, to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–627);

H.R. 877, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–628);

H.R. 2956, to provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–629);

H.R. 3651, to facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–630);

H.R. 7119, to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–631, Part 1);

H.R. 5929, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require reporting of certain expenditures for political activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–632);

H.R. 1731, amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–633)

H.R. 5930, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose information about human capital management in annual reports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–634); and

H.R. 4328, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to protect certain consumers affected by a shutdown, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–635). **Page H7045**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Correa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6907**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:13 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6916**

**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021:** The House agreed to the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a yea-and-nay vote of 335 yeas to 78 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 238. **Pages H6919–35, H7021**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Making technical corrections to the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018:* S. 1811, amended, to make technical corrections to the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018;

**Pages H6935–84, H7021–22**

*Agreed to amend the title so as to read:* “To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.”;

**Page H6984**

*Route 66 Centennial Commission Act:* S. 1014, to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission;

**Pages H6984–87**

*Designating the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”:* S. 4902, to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”;

**Pages H6987–88**

*ALS Disability Insurance Access Act:* S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;

**Pages H6988–91**

*Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information:* H.R. 1375, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information;

**Pages H6991–93**

*Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process:* H.R. 2477, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process;

**Pages H6993–H7000**

*Authorizing implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers:* H.R. 8161, amended, to authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers;

**Pages H7004–07**

*Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act:* S. 2258, to provide anti-retaliation protections for anti-trust whistleblowers;

**Pages H7007–09**

*Imposing requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”):* H.R. 683, amended, to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”);

**Pages H7009–11**

*Combat Online Predators Act:* S. 134, to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking;

**Pages H7011–14**

*Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020:* H.R. 8354, amended, to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 239; and

**Pages H7014–15**

*Providing for the modernization of electronic case management systems:* H.R. 8235, amended, to provide for the modernization of electronic case management systems.

**Pages H7015–21**

*Promoting Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 3703, to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

**Pages H7000–01**

*For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass H.R. 631, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, as amended by Representative Bass.

**Page H7001**

*For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass H.R. 4225, for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera, as amended by Representative Bass.

**Pages H7001–02**

*For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass H.R. 7146, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez, as amended by Representative Bass.

**Pages H7002–03**

*For the relief of Median El-Moustrah:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass H.R. 7572, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah, as amended by Representative Bass.

Pages H7003–04

*Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2904, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future.

Pages H7022–23

*Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States:* The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 1250, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.

Pages H7023–25

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6935.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7021 and H7022.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### THE IMPACT ON WOMEN SEEKING AN ABORTION BUT ARE DENIED BECAUSE OF AN INABILITY TO PAY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “The Impact on Women Seeking an Abortion but are Denied Because of an Inability to Pay”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### THE BALKANS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Balkans: Policy Recommendations for the Next Administration”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### IDENTIFYING CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS: HOW WE CAN SUPPORT OUR VETERANS THROUGH AND AFTER COVID-19

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Identifying Congressional and Administration Priorities for the Next Congress: How we can support our Veterans through and after COVID-19”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1051)

H.R. 835, to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–206)

H.R. 1668, to establish minimum security standards for Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by the Federal Government. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–207)

H.R. 3589, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–208)

H.R. 4104, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–209)

H.R. 8276, to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–210)

H.R. 8472, to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–211)

S. 3147, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress reports on patient safety and quality of care at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–212)

S. 3587, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–213)

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the invalidation of the European Union-United States Privacy Shield and the future of transatlantic data flows, 10 a.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Cook, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 9:45 a.m., SD–106.

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, to hold hearings to examine investigating challenges to American retirement security, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine advancing tribal self-governance and cultural sovereignty for future generations, focusing on languages to homelands, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs response to COVID–19 across the VA enterprise, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled “1890 Land Grant Institutions—130 Years of Building Equity in Agriculture”, 10 a.m., Webex.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Fort Hood 2020: The Findings and Recommendations of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Diplomacy or Dead End: An Evaluation of Syria Policy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “International Human Rights and the Closing Civic Space”, 2 p.m., Webex.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform,* Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Pipelines Over People: How FERC Tramples Landowner Rights in Natural Gas Projects”, 10 a.m., Webex.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs,* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “The Toxic World of Presumptive Service Connection Determinations: Why Should Our Veterans Wait?”, 9 a.m., HVC–210 and Webex.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, with a vote on confirmation thereon at 11 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

Following disposition of the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, Senator Menendez, or his designee, will be recognized to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78, joint resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services, with up to four hours of debate equally divided. Upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate will vote on the motions to discharge the joint resolutions, in the order listed.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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